

Gloucestershire Scouts Bushcraft and Survival Skills

Scout Survival Skills Activity Badge

Pre-Course Activity: Personal Survival Kit

<https://www.scouts.org.uk/scouts/activity-badges/survival-skills/>



Building a Personal or Pocket Survival kit, (PSK for short) is one of the badge requirements for the Scout badge course. It will also be needed by Explorer Scouts.

A PSK is more than a survival kit. It's also a mini repair kit, and maybe includes a mini first aid kit too. ***There is no such thing as the perfect kit.*** If it was so perfect that it had everything you needed, it would be so big and heavy that you would never take it on adventures with you! 🤖

It's pocket sized and kept handy, yet separate from the rest of your gear

You will need deep pockets for a whole life raft though! 🤖



The container can be anything, from the classic tobacco tin, or Altoids tin, shoe polish tin. More waterproof ideas include a screw top match safe, or even a little snack size Tupperware box. Zip up pouches, wallets or pencil cases can also work well. A minimalist kit could be a few things on a piece of string to hang round your neck so they don't get lost.



A basic kit list may include

- Watertight tin (tobacco tins are idea, travel sweet tins, mint tins work too)
- A mini lighter (mini Bic are the best)
- Matches
- Ferro rod/firesteel
- Magnifying card
- Cordage (proper Paracord is bulky / dental floss is more compact/bankline/ jute string)
- Water purification tabs
- Sewing kit (needles, safety pins, strong thread)
- Duct/gaffer tape (wrap a length around the lighter)
- Tinder/ firelighting materials (waxed card, Vaseline, rubber inner tube, tampon, jute string)
- Strong wire (brass is good)
- Plasters, micropore tape, basic painkillers
- Sharp edge (scalpel blade/ razor blade/ hacksaw blade)
- Ziploc bags/ condom (unlubricated)
- Fishing wire, hooks, weights
- (Signalling) mirror
- Foil space blanket
- Mini torch



To Summarise.....

Build your kit to your requirements. Bring the kit with you on the course (it's a Badge requirement)

Keep it simple, know how to use it (We will do this bit)

But remember this too.....

"All the gear.....no idea" (Anon)

"BE PREPARED" (B.P.)

See you on the Weekend.

Andy, Dean, Rob, Chris, Russ.