

My Son is the Grubmaster, What is My Role?

The following information is offered in the hopes of making the job of a patrol grubmaster and his parents easier. When it is your son's turn to be grubmaster for an outing, the patrol will have prepared a menu (at a troop or patrol meeting.) It is then signed-off by an ASM/Patrol Mentor. The mentor will do his best to edit it for nutritional balance and estimate if it will come within budget. Follow the menu the patrol planned. Good or bad, it's what the group agreed to.

This is a good opportunity for you to get involved in helping to teach your son some important life skills (food planning, portion control, budgeting, shopping) but remember it's his job: You can help, but please don't do it for him. Guide him in writing up his shopping list based on the menu. Encourage him to **group like items together**, just as you do when you are shopping. (If a key item/ingredient is missing it should be added.)



- Your son should have a firm attendance count by the Wednesday prior to the outing. If he doesn't know he (not you) should call his patrol leader first to get the information; if that doesn't work, try the senior patrol leader who will have a copy of the roster; as a last resort call the ASM in charge of the outing to get an accurate count.



- If the patrol only needs a **small quantity** of something, please donate it from your own kitchen. For example, enough salad dressing for a patrol of four to six scouts can be decanted into a smaller bottle, saving the expense of a Costco family-sized bottle, and thus saving room in the ice chest/dry goods container

When you take your son shopping, please **DO** the following:

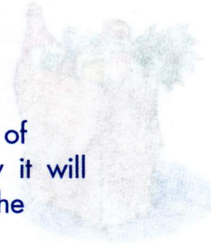
- He is responsible for the shopping; don't do it for him while he's at school. Let him push his own shopping basket around the store. If you have your own shopping to do, have a separate basket for your own family.



- As he is selecting items, help him choose each based on what is **on sale** that week, using the unit pricing to teach him what the best values are.
- Boys often have trouble with quantities. Presented with excess food, most boys will eat the junk (cookies, chips) and throw away the healthy stuff. You want enough to feed everyone but no leftovers.
- If the patrol wants something that is individually wrapped, talk about the extra costs involved. For example, would buying one big bag of potato chips help keep the patrol on budget if individual bags push them over?



- Take along a **calculator** and have your son enter the price of each item as he places it in his shopping basket. That way it will be clear how much he's spending before he goes through the register, and it is too late to make any changes.



A Scout is thrifty...the patrol **must work within the budget.** The budget is based per person as stated on each permission slip, times the number of Scouts/people the patrol will be feeding for the weekend. (For example, if the permission slip states that meals will be by patrol method at a cost of \$10/person and 6 Scouts are attending, the budget is $10 \times 6 = \$60$). If the menu is coming under budget, the patrol grubmaster has the discretion to purchase snacks to share with the patrol.

Time to pack...



- **Pack perishables in an ice chest WITH ICE.** Have your son **LABEL** the cooler with the patrol name -duct tape and a magic marker work great. An excellent method to make ice is to use a 2-liter bottle. Fill with water to the shoulder area, leaving room for expansion as the water freezes. The cap will keep any melted ice enclosed in the bottle and not soaking the food.



- Pack non-perishable food separately from perishables in cardboard boxes or plastic storage bins. Have your son **LABEL the box(es)** with the patrol name (again, duct tape and magic marker works great.) Do not bring a bunch of grocery bags. Everything is going to get crammed into the trailer and bags are likely to get lost, spilled, mixed up or smashed.

After the outing, help your son assess his purchases. Did they have enough of everything, or too much of anything? If a small quantity of something is leftover, consider it your repayment for whatever you donated out of your kitchen. If there were a large quantity of something leftover, such as unused cans of food, it would be preferable to not bill the troop for it, but instead, deduct it from the Request for Reimbursement and use it you.

The cost of food on camping trips is borne by each boy attending, and is indicated on the permission slip. Patrols plan a menu with the oversight of the patrol mentor. A patrol member, the "**grubmaster**," normally purchases the food for his patrol. A Scout is responsible for any food purchased for him whether he attends the outdoor activity or not if he does not cancel his participation before food is purchased.

Reimbursement is made by submitting the receipt to the troop treasurer. The name of the patrol, the name of the trip, and your son's name should be written on the receipt. The treasurer will credit your Scout account up to the amount allowed by the patrol's budget for that outing.

