

I just handed this list out at a Jamboree Leader training weekend in our council. It doesn't include the "basics" of forming patrols, etc., but it might have a couple of items a Scoutmaster might be able to use. Remember, these are written for a council who travels clear across the country (from Portland, Oregon) and spends six days prior to the Jamboree touring the historic sites, etc.:

- Have each leader keep a Family Radio Service (FRS) two-way radio at all times can be very helpful. These can be borrowed from families or purchased inexpensively. If adult leaders have to split up, you can keep in communication for up to a couple of miles. This helped troops numerous times during past Jamborees. (Although these are becoming very popular, and there will probably be 10,000 of them at the Jamboree, they would help on the pre-tour.)
- Way better than the FRS radios is to have one or two adult leaders and one or two of the youth leaders (or more) get their Technician Class amateur radio license. This requires a little bit of study and taking a test, but... The Jamboree has a repeater system that allows full range coverage from a small hand-held radio that is similar looking to an FRS radio, but has much further and more reliable range. If you are interested in this, contact a local ham radio operator who will help you. It may seem way beyond some individual's capability to do this, but it is well worth it. And you don't have to fight 10,000+ FRS radios at the Jamboree!
- Do head counts every time you load into the bus or the airplane. Do not conduct only verbal-head counts. A designated leader should walk from the back of the bus forward, making a visible count. Verbal-only head counts have resulted in Scouts being left at the Washington Mall when everyone else is back at the hotel!
- In preparation for the air trip, play the **Metal Detector Game**. Everyone that makes it through the metal detector without setting off the alarm wins a prize. This will reduce confusion at the gate and get everyone to be thinking what they are carrying on them. It will also reduce the amount of time that non-Scout travelers have to wait for Scouts.
- Make the bus driver an honorary member of your troop. This should happen at an appropriate time. Travel to the Jamboree with a couple extra troop tee shirts and other troop Jamboree memorabilia to present to the driver. This serves to make the bus driver more cooperative and flexible, especially if you're planning to make grocery store or other unplanned stops.
- A great training session to conduct during a pre-Jamboree troop meeting involves brainstorming with the entire troop on what pranks can be played at a restaurant. This session includes someone listing on a flip chart at the front of the troop the typical tricks: Make sure the salt shaker lid is barely on, so someone pours the whole shaker of salt on their food. Switch meals while someone isn't looking. Etc. After doing all of this brainstorming and making a poster list of all these things, the Scoutmaster then announces he now has the list of things that are not only not allowed, but all leaders will be looking for these any time the troop is in a restaurant!
- Conduct training the troop entitled: "What is a Jamboree Uniform?" Make sure to list what is, and ISN'T. There is no reason for Scouts to bring any civilian wear

- with them to the Jamboree. There will be **no time** when it is appropriate for them to wear civilian clothes!
- Don't bring any stoves that will not hook up to the 5 gallon propane tanks that they provide you at the jamboree. You won't be allowed to use such stoves. In fact, they'll either confiscate it (for return after the Jamboree is over), or ask that you take it apart into pieces!
 - Be prepared to repair tent ridge poles! High winds can break these poles very easy. The part that breaks is the compressed end pieces.
 - Exercise a lot of control at the airport. Keep the group tightly together. Scouts must ask permission to leave the group (for restroom, etc.). They need to know that you are serious about this. This pays off when a rapid transfer connection must be made. If everyone knows that you demand that they stay together, it will work out.
 - At the Jamboree, have your own coolers full of soda pop and other appropriate cold drinks that your Scouts can pay for on the Honor System. This will save them a lot of money! It also will encourage your troop site to be a fun "hangout place". You can buy the cheap Styrofoam coolers and pop at a store just prior to arriving at the Jamboree.
 - Be real serious about the "no laser pointer rule."
 - Instruct your Scouts to not participate in any "throwing activities" that might start up at the Arena. In past Jamborees, it began with innocent patch throwing --- someone thought it would be neat to toss free patches around the crowd. That wasn't too bad until it got out of control, like it can at any Scout event. Soon, hard objects were being tossed, then those "light sticks" were broken and tossed about. People ended up having glowing chemicals stuck to their uniform, etc.!
 - Create a troop bank, complete with hours of operation. A good time during the tour is while the bus is underway. Keep a good record book, and have Scouts sign out for every penny that is deposited or withdrawn. This is a good job for the 2nd Assistant Scoutmaster.

- Phil Westover,
SM, 1997 Jambo
SM, 2001 Jambo
K2BSA Staff, 2005 Jambo