



# CALVIN COOLIDGE DISTRICT PRIMITIVE OFF-THE-GRID CHALLENGE

September 13 to October 11, 2020

Troops and packs need to go off the beaten path and into the boondocks to get it done using the most basic of materials. We are going oooooffffff the grid. How far off the grid and how elaborate is up to your unit. Your skills will be on display by a short video you will take for each challenge.



**WIN!**

The TROOP with best overall score wins a **\$100 GIFT CERTIFICATE for Backcountry.com** so maybe you can buy some patches for your tents, a coffee maker for your scoutmaster, or any other TROOP needs.

The PACK with the best overall score wins a **\$100 GIFT CERTIFICATE to the Scout Shop** so maybe you can buy some ice packs and ear plugs for you leaders, some rockets or something fun for your pack.

If you are competing as a patrol/den then the prize will go to the troop/pack that your patrol/den is a part of.



Share the fun by joining the  
**Primitive off-the-grid challenge, Calvin Coolidge District, BSA** Facebook group  
Link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/326276185183873/>

# Let's see how your troop or pack stacks up against the following challenges:



## FOR Troops (packs may choose the Troop challenge if they are up to the task)

### 1. PRIMITIVE SHELTER BUILD

Construct your best shelter(s) using only natural materials and cordage.

### 2. PRIMITIVE FIRE AND COOKING

Light a fire using flint and steel, bow and drill, fire piston, magnifying glass, etc. and cook one or more items without pots, pans, grill, or foil (again natural materials only for cooking utensils such as rocks, sticks, etc.)

### 3. PRIMITIVE CAMPSITE IMPROVEMENT PIONEERING PROJECT

Can be a table, pot stick, tripod, tower, or any other pioneering project. Cordage and natural materials.

### 4. OUT IN THE STICKS

Go on an adventure (hike, bike, canoe, whatever works, no hang-gliding) and show how you are "in the middle of nowhere." Come up with a tall tale about where you are and how long it has been since anyone ever set foot in your location (if ever). Drift off into a made-up description about how far, far, off out in the sticks you are...

## FOR PACKS:

### 1. RIO ROOSEVELT OR "MIDDLE OF THE AMAZON"

Using cardboard boxes and duct tape create either a primitive shelter or an improvised canoe (does not have to float).

### 2. SUPER-DUPER ULTRA DELUXE SMORE SUPREME

Cubs get creative with their own smore recipes. Show how you made it and reveal your secret recipe.

### 3. WHATCHAMACALLIT

Make anything you would like out of sticks and stones and natural materials. Come up with a name for your creation. Will allow Elmer's glue, seems pretty natural.

### 4. OUT IN THE STICKS

Go on an adventure (hike, bike, canoe, whatever works, no hang-gliding) and show how you are "in the middle of nowhere." Come up with a tall tale about where you are and how long it has been since anyone ever set foot in your location (if ever). Drift off into a made-up description about how far, far, off out in the sticks you are...

# How it works



- Complete the above four challenges either as a troop/pack or by patrol/den any time **from September 13th to October 11th.**

- During each challenge take a short video (about a minute per challenge). Your complete video should not exceed 5 minutes and contain an introduction (troop number, patrol, etc.) and each of the above challenges (5 minute is TOTAL video length maximum, so splice them all together into one video file). There are many ways in which you can create a video. The majority of the smartphones and iPhones have the options of creating the videos directly from your Gallery. Otherwise go on your App store on your phone and type “video editor free” and choose the app your prefer to create your video!

- Once the video is completed we will collect them all and judge (25 points for each of the 4 challenges and 25 EXTRA points if you spend the night in your primitive shelter)

- **Submit a link to your video to Francesca Arato: francesca.arato@scouting.org**

Learn how to submit your final video in the following page of this booklet (Appendix A).

- **The best overall score wins a \$100 GIFT CERTIFICATE for Backcountry.com for TROOPS and \$100 GIFT CERTIFICATE for the Scout Shop for PACKS**

- SHARE THE FUN by joining the **Primitive off-the-grid challenge, Calvin Coolidge District, BSA**

Facebook group (link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/326276185183873/>)

Share your excitement and experiences on social media with friends, neighbours and fellow campers during and after the event. When posting something online during this event make sure not to write your physical address and your last name. By submitting your videos and pictures you authorize the Green Mountain Council, BSA to use them for promotional purposes.

If you will post pictures or videos on social media, make sure to read the social media guide and adhere to the BSA Youth protection standards: <https://scoutingwire.org/social-media-guidelines/>

## The fine print:

- Overall scoring will be improved by evidence of the scout oath and law in action.

- Please remember to “Leave No Trace”

- The challenges can be completed either on the same day or different days, any time between Sep 13 and Oct 11. Please submit a link to the video as soon as you are done.

- You can participate as troops or patrols but need to complete the same 4 challenges and document the four challenges with one 5 minute video. So you can submit one video per patrol or one video per troop.

- If due to covid considerations a scout is not currently meeting with their unit they can participate as an individual by following the same rules. Again you win the prize for your troop or pack.

- Scoring will be done by a panel of 3 former Olympic figure-skating judges.

- We will have a Zoom meeting shortly after the challenge to announce the winner.

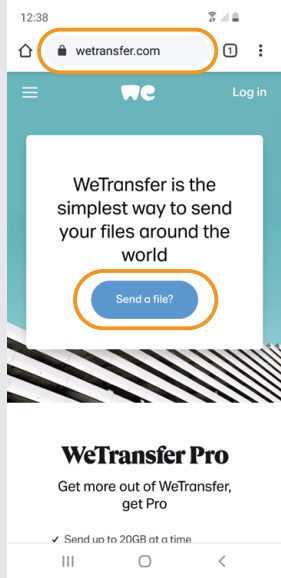
- "Natural" means Natural so plastic tarps are not natural so please use your judgment.

- Flying in hang gliders, ultralights, experimental aircraft, or hot-air balloons (nontethered); parachuting; and flying in aircraft as part of a search and rescue mission are unauthorized activities. Tethered hot-air balloon flights

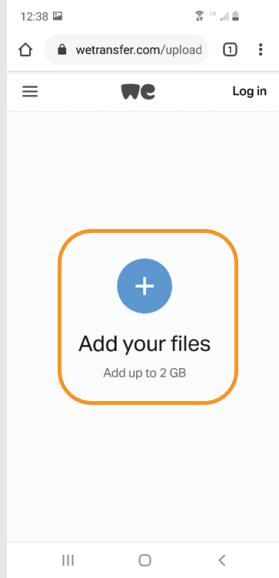
are authorized, and a flying plan must be submitted (From Guide to Safe Scouting, page 58, section VIII, #8).

# Appendix A. HOW TO UPLOAD YOUR VIDEO TO WIN THE CHALLENGE.

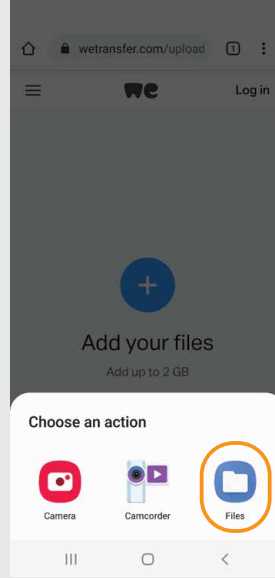
**1** Go on *wetransfer.com* and click on "Send a file"



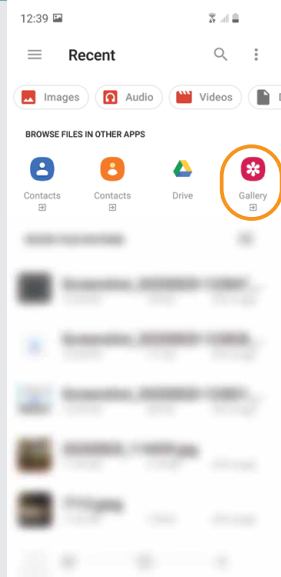
**2** Click on 'Add your files'



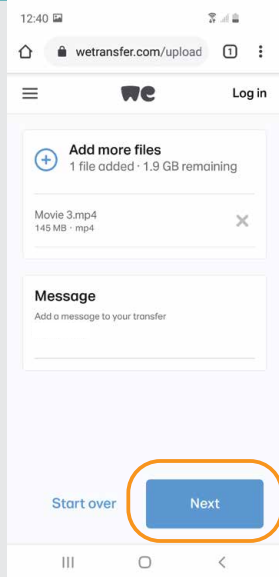
**3** Click on "Files"



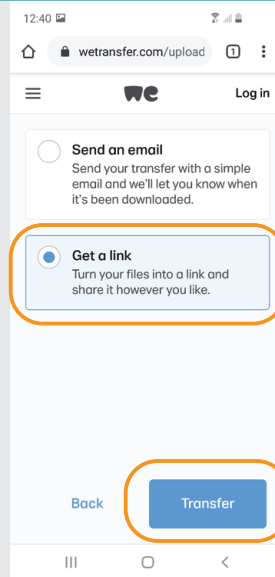
**4** Click on the folder where your video is stored



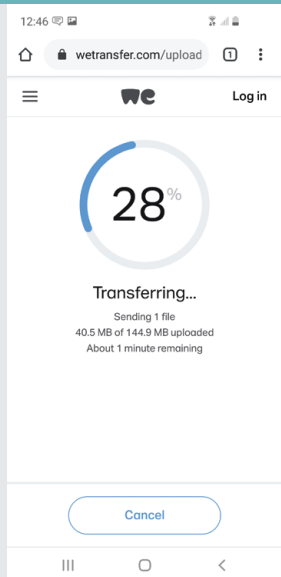
**5** Click on "Next"



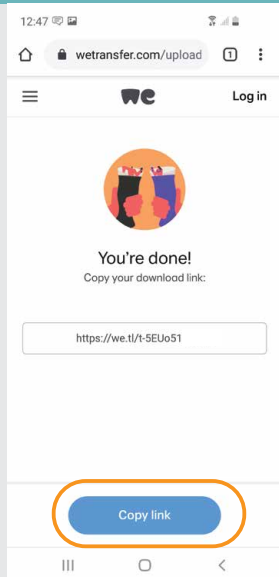
**6** Click first on "Get a link" and then on "Transfer"



**7** Wait for the file to upload



**8** Click on "Copy link"



**9** And lastly, paste your link in an email addressed to *francesca.arato@scouting.org*

In the email Subject write your Troop or Pack number.

If you are participating as an individual, write your Name, Surname and Troop or Pack number.

Thank you!