

MESS KITS

In an effort to be conservation minded, Troop 640 includes a mess kit on its list of "Ten Essentials." The use of personal mess kits allows the troop to reduce costs and paper waste at scout events.

Below is an example of what a mess kit should include. This particular kit was used during the 2010 National Scout Jamboree, and it worked well. This kit includes a plate, bowl, cup and a silverware set - all are reusable. You will also note that the kit includes a mesh bag with a draw string. At the conclusion of a meal, a scout will wash their dishes and then place them in the mesh bag, which will then be hung to air dry.

This kit or one like it is available at sporting goods stores (such as REI, for about \$11.50); however you do not need to buy it there. Inexpensive single-piece plastic dishes and flatware can be purchased at thrift stores, "dollar" stores, garage sales, and discount stores (such as Walmart), etc. The mesh bag can be a small lingerie laundering bag, commonly available at grocery stores in the houseware section (where hangers, clothes pins, mops, etc., are sold).

Although acceptable, please try to avoid aluminum kits and the plastic flatware commonly for picnics and banquets. The durability of these items is questionable at best, and could break during use, leaving a scout without important mealtime gear. Also try to avoid ceramic-coated metal, as the weight of these items can become bothersome.

