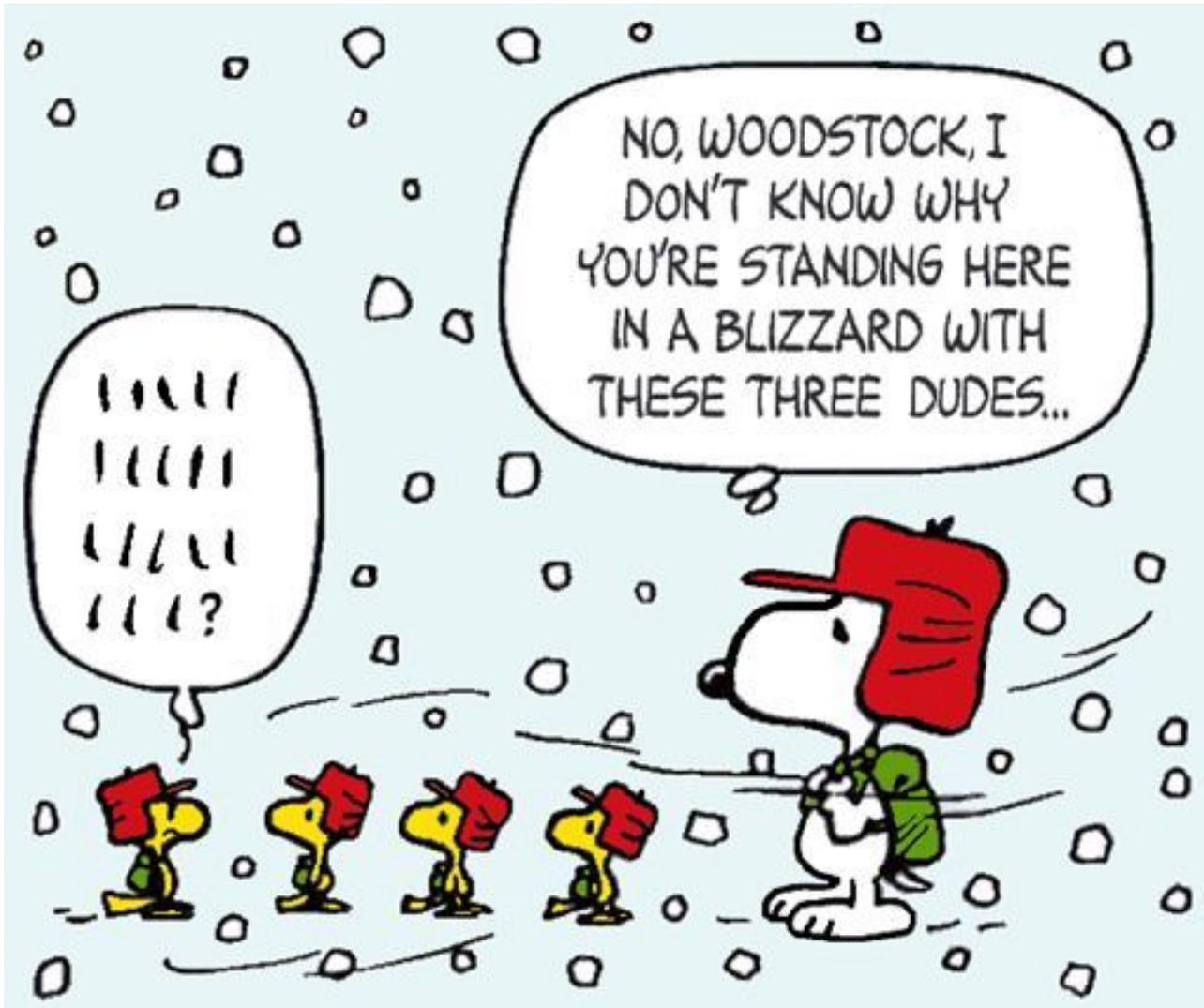


SWC Safety Moment – February 2019

By DCC Hans Uhr



“ To Cancel or not to Cancel”

That's the question

Hi Everyone

Robert Baden-Powell once said the definition of the Scout motto Be Prepared is this: "A Scout must prepare himself by previous thinking out and practicing how to act on any accident or emergency so that he is never taken by surprise." Baden-Powell also advocated that young men spend a lot of time learning in and about the out-of-doors, as he said, "The open-air is the real objective of Scouting and the key to its success." However, we still need to be aware of our surroundings and their changing conditions, including what is happening with the weather.

So maybe the question is not always "To Cancel or not Cancel" but rather how to adapt to the new situation. If the event is a weekend event and the weather forecast calls for ice rain / storm on Sunday after noon, shall I cancel or do I change to a Saturday only event. If it's a business meeting, can we do a conference call instead of traveling?

It's not easy to make the decision and it will depend on the age, experience, activity and the equipment available to the group.

While we all support outdoors, safety has to be our top priority. What about the out door challenge? After all we are in Canada.

Yes, we are and you know best how much of a safe challenge your group can take. As long as you do a risk analysis and make a proper decision.

Don't forget to include the parents, as they often transport their youth to and from the events. If you do a hike and the pickup point is not the same as the drop-off point, is it safe for parents to pick them up or do you suddenly end up with several youth that need transportation.

Situations can change quickly and result in large rescue operations with health and financial loss. Worldwide, there are every so often some large-scale rescue and recovery operations involving scouts or other youth organizations.

May you discuss and establish with your group and parents an "Inclement Weather Policy". Some parents may expect that you cancel when the school cancels, etc. How do they know it's a go or canceled?

- Know the weather forecast before, during and after the event (Travel Time)
- Know the weather forecast for your current location and target location.

Thank you and stay safe

Hans Uhr, DCC Safety, Shining Water Council

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SWC - Statistics

As of 19. February 2019

| | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Active Scouters | 1454 |
| Pending Scouters | 58 |
| Total Scouters | 1512 |

If you wish to have more information about the status of your area or group please let me know. If you need any support to make your pending members active, please let us know. Keep in your mind that pending scouters can't be on the floor.

News

The safety team is growing and we have now safety representatives for:

- YHW Rosalind So**
- SPA Justin Johnston**
- WPA Nicole Kasarurak**
- SLS Hans Uhr**

Attachments

- Week 25 Safety Report - new**
- Winter Safety Driving Tips - refresher**
- Ice Safety Tips - refresher**

If you have any questions, concerns or if you would like to address a certain topic, please let me know Thank you everyone.