



## 2020 Cub Scout Backyard Challenge



**Weather Prepared!**

**Category: Nature**

**Difficulty: Advanced**

### **Description:**

Being prepared for severe weather is something we think about while we are home, but we often don't consider it while we're hiking or camping. Our Cub Scout leaders watch the weather forecast and plan accordingly, but our scouts still need to know what to do in severe weather situations that may arise while we are out and about in nature.

Here are a few of the situations and some simple rules that your scouts can follow. After the list, there is a fun game your scout can play.

### **Lightning:**

**“When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!”** is a phrase that is easy for the scouts to remember.

What do we need to do when we here thunder? **We need to seek shelter.**

What makes a good lightning shelter? **An enclosed building or car. If at camp, the staff will tell you where to go.**

What if you are not near a safe shelter? **Find a low-lying area and get in the lightning stance. Squat down with your weight on the balls of your feet, crouch low to the ground and cover your ears with your hands.**

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Can I shelter under a tree? **No. You never want to be under a tall tree, but if you are in a grove of short trees, you may be okay. Best to find a low spot away from the trees and get in the lightning stance.**

Many Cub Scout families do “car camping” where their vehicle is parked close to the campsite. If you can, get to your car if you hear thunder. You can read more information at the [National Weather Service's site](#).

### **Tornado:**

“**Get in, Get Down, and Cover Up!**” is our tornado safety phrase.

Where should I go if I think there is a tornado? **If there is a building close by (such as restrooms), go inside.**

Can I shelter in a car? **Do not go to your car. You are not safe in a car when there is a tornado.**

What do I do if caught outside with no buildings available? **The best option is to find the lowest spot in the ground and lay flat, covering your head with your hands.**

The [National Weather Service](#) also has information about [tornado safety](#).

### **Flash Flood:**

The flash flood safety phrase is, “**Turn Around, Don't Drown!**”

Can I walk through a flash flood? **No! Turn around, Don't drown.**

Can my parents drive through a flash flood? **No! Turn around, Don't drown.**

What if I lose my toy boat in the flash flood? **You should not be playing near a flash flood.**

What do I do if the creek is low but I hear or see water rushing toward me? **Drop your gear and move to higher ground immediately and as quickly as you can.**

[Read more about flood safety.](#)

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## Weather Preparedness Drill Game

To make practicing these safety measures fun, here is a little game. To prepare for the game, **write the following phrases on pieces of paper**. You can also print them out here.

- Tent
- Tall Tree
- Car
- Creek
- Short Trees
- Low Spot
- Hill
- Open Area

**Tape these up** around your house or yard.

Start by talking to your Scout about the actions they should take depending on the weather emergency. Have them **squat** in a lightning stance, **lay flat** for tornadoes and **pantomime climbing** for flash floods. They can practice these several times.

Instruct your Scout(s) to pretend they are on a camping trip. They should look around the room to see different areas of the campground. When you call out a weather event, **they are to move to the safer spot and take the appropriate action**. For example, if you call out “tornado,” they should run to the sign marked “low spot” and lay down flat.

There may be more than one correct answer, here are possible answers:

- Tornado – Lay down flat in the lowest spot
- Lightning – Lightning stance by car, lowest spot, or in short trees
- Flood – Climb up the hill

Continue randomly calling out one of the three weather events. Speed up and watch your scout hustle!

We hope this helps your Cub Scout learn what to do in a weather emergency while out and about.

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