

# SURVIVAL

A Scouting Ireland challenge

**The Lifeboat**



# Survival scenarios

Imagine yourself with a walking party. There is a blast of wind, a lot of noise and you are engulfed in an avalanche of snow. You are sailing in a yacht a heavy wind blows, you lose your mast and are set adrift. How do you cope?

These situations are ones which people have found themselves in on occasions in the past and will, doubtless, find themselves in the future. For this reason a knowledge of survival can be as useful as a knowledge of first aid.

Although we live in a relatively civilised environment the ease of modern travel, coupled with the fact that Scouts are going to more remote areas, maintains the need for a knowledge of survival skills.

Before going further it may be as well to define the term 'survival' - 'Survival is the art of remaining alive in and escaping from a hostile environment, without full facilities.' This needs a few words of explanation. If you camp in the hills in winter with a good mountain tent, a warm sleeping bag, a stove with plenty of fuel and no shortage of food, this is camping not survival. Survival begins when some relatively essential item is missing and becomes more acute the less one has.

The American Rescue Service has said that country people or city people who

have had a lot of Scout training are the best survivors.

To stay alive the following must be considered

## Food

Without it one will eventually die although not as rapidly as one might think. In her book, *Hey I'm Alive*, Helen Klaben describes how she stayed alive for forty nine days on virtually nothing.

## Water

With no water available a man, even in a cool climate and doing no work, is unlikely to survive more than fifteen days.

## Shelter and Warmth

Without these the physical condition of the survivor will deteriorate.

## Medical

Untreated injuries or sickness will undermine the body to some extent especially if allied to a lack of shelter and food. Additionally the ability to escape on foot will be inhibited.

## Communication

A person is a very small object and the earth is a very big place. Some means of attracting attention is vital for anyone in need of help. A mobile phone is excellent

if a signal is available if not then traditional means of communication will need to be used.

## Movement

How to move, when to move, etc. now become vital questions to be answered.

## Navigation

This may not be to one-degree accuracy but in many types of terrain it is quite an effort to keep going in a constant compass direction without veering well off course.

## Load-carrying

Too big a load will reduce your chances of reaching help but too small a load may mean vital items are abandoned.



# Life boat

You and the following people are on a sinking cruise ship that was headed to the Bahamas. As your ship is sinking, you spot an island and believe that you are close enough to reach it in a lifeboat. However, there are 13 of you left alive, but only room for 7 in the lifeboat (you and 6 others). Those that go in the lifeboat will probably make it to the island where they will try to survive until they are rescued. Those that are left on the sinking cruise ship will likely go down with the ship and die.

You are one of the officers of the cruise ship and the highest ranking survivor. You are given the responsibility of deciding who remains on the ship and who goes aboard the lifeboat.

## Part 1

- Individually, in your own space, without reference to anyone else; you have to decide the order in which you would save the people on the sinking ship. Place an 1-6 next to the 6 people you would choose to go in the lifeboat.
- On a separate sheet of paper, write down the reason why you chose each person.

## Part 2

- Come together with your Patrol.  
You must come up with who you will save as a Patrol.
- Place an "X" next to the 6 people you would choose to go in the lifeboat. \* Most likely, people are going to have differing opinions, but you can only have one answer.
- On a separate sheet of paper, write down the reason why you chose each person.



# The Passengers

This is the only information you have on the following people.

Your choice	Patrol choice	
		<b>Lola</b> – She is a 22 year old go-go dancer who was on the boat to relax from her recent cosmetic surgery. She suffers from clinical depression and has had two suicide attempts but none in at least a year.
		<b>Mary Anne</b> – She is a 45 year old experienced nurse and single mother with two school aged children at home however they are living with her sister due to a Child Protective Services because she is an active alcoholic.
		<b>Billy</b> – He is a 16 year old boy on probation for stealing money from old ladies. He is very charming, friendly and helpful when he wants to be but cannot be trusted.
		<b>Dr. Storch</b> – He is 55 in good health except he has a prosthetic leg from a car accident. He is very intelligent but likes to throw his knowledge in everyone’s face as he is a bit arrogant.
		<b>Sheena</b> – She is 30 and is an ex- fitness instructor with an athletic build however she is HIV positive that she contracted from her boyfriend, who is a drug dealer. She also works part time as a cocktail waitress.
		<b>Mickey</b> – Mickey is in his mid 40’s and is unemployed cocaine addict, however he is unusually strong from years of street fighting and working on the docks. Mickey has a disfigured face from the years of street fighting and his hygiene is not the best.
		<b>Shane</b> – Shane is a genius age 39 with a degree in cellular biology, making breakthroughs in his work on a cure for cancer but he is in a wheelchair and he comes across as selfish and rude.

Your choice	Patrol choice	
		<b>Tom</b> – He is 41 and a hero from both gulf wars but he hears voices when he isn’t medicated.
		<b>Cindy</b> – Cindy is a 70 year old retired schoolteacher with four adult children and 15 grandchildren. She also is an expert chef and homemaker. Cindy is a chronic smoker who is awaiting test results from a test indicating she may have lung cancer.
		<b>Barry</b> – He is in his late 20’s and has survival techniques from his years as a hired mercenary. He angers easily with a short temper but otherwise has excellent leadership skills when calm. Barry admitted to you that he killed someone in a fight in a third world country many years ago and he never was caught and claims it was self-defense anyway.
		<b>Xavier</b> – He is 18 and in good health, but he barely speaks English as he is from some strange country you’ve never heard of but he is an aspiring musician with a newly signed record contract for playing the zither. He is a on an international terrorist watch list but swears he is being wrongly racially profiled.
		<b>Fred</b> – He is a 40 year old husband and father of four and an expert in yachting and sea navigation and in good health but since you have been on this boat trip he has gotten on your nerves often because he is very opinionated. Fred is on this trip because he recently abandoned his sick wife and children and does not plan on ever seeing them again.
		<b>Yourself</b>