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**STARFLEET MARINE
CORPS**



**WILDERNESS
CHALLENGE
MANUAL**

Revision 1202

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WILDERNESS CHALLENGE MANUAL

2012 EDITION



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Published January 2012

Acknowledgements

This edition of the WC is and only version of the Wilderness Challenge manual. We would like to acknowledge the committees work on ensuring that the SFMC has a quality Wilderness Challenge event each year..

Pronoun Disclaimer

In this manual, "he", "him", and "his" are used following the standard English-language grammatical convention to use these forms for gender-nonspecific pronouns. No sexist bias is intended. The convention is used merely for ease of writing and reading. There have been and hopefully always will be plenty of female members in the SFMC, and no slight to them is intended.



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SECTION 1 - Introduction

The Wilderness Challenge was originally introduced by two of the Corps' most distinguished Marines as a hike along an Historic railroad bed, The Little River Lumber Company's rails built during their logging of the Great Smoky Mountains. Their idea was to create a recurring event planned yearly for the enjoyment of the STARFLEET Marine Corps and members of STARFLEET. It was adopted as a Challenge to the STARFLEET Marine Corps to promote the enjoyment of the great outdoors, but all in all it is an event to promote physical activity and fellowship. A time to participate in Marine like events, encourage physical fitness and have fun with other members of your Fleet family.

The Wilderness Challenge is a yearly event. The over all event includes all the individual Challenges put on by the Brigades within the Corps. Each may be different but they all must represent the true nature of why the event was started. It must be physically challenging and promote fellowship. Challenges can be planned around any number of physical activities including sports but is not intended to be a win or lose contest. Anyone who participates receives the same reward. It is not to pit member against member, but members against themselves or nature. The first three official Challenges were hikes in the Great Smoky Mountains, but they can consist of training sessions, obstacle courses, treasure hunts or biking, swimming, hiking, skiing or any number of physically challenging events.

Challenges are authorized through a bidding process. All groups interested in hosting a Challenge for their Brigade submit bids with their Challenge ideas, cost of registration, event dates and information about the area in which the event will take place. These bids are sent to the Wilderness Challenge committee for review. The Committee compares all bids from all Brigades and grants the Challenge to whom they feel has set up the best Challenge for each Brigade.

This document explains what is necessary to set up a Wilderness Challenge and what to include in any bid submitted for consideration.

SECTION 2 - Bidding

Wilderness Challenge bids are judged by several factors. The most important of which is the nature of the event. However there are other very important factors to consider like how well organized it is, the area it will take place, safety for the participants, etc. It must be well planned and thought out. Plenty of time should be giving to get the word out to the members. Accommodations should be scouted out to give suggestions to visitors coming from long distances. There is a lot of planning to consider when putting together a bid.

A detailed description of the event should be published. It should say more than, "we are going on a hike". Obviously taking a walk across a flat parking lot is a lot easier then climbing the steps of the Capital building. Let people know just how strenuous the event is likely to be. Describe the area it will take place considering important factors for the area and season, such as shade in the summertime. Let them know what equipment or supplies are needed for them to participate. In the case of a biking event they would surely need a bicycle. Let them know what the cost of renting a bike would be. These are just some examples of how detailed your bid should be.

These are the things that should be included in your bid. The more detailed you can make it the better chance you will have of being awarded the bid.

Describe the event.

- If it requires walking, riding or climbing describe the terrain in great detail.
- A list of equipment that everyone is required to have to participate.
- Registration fee and what it includes.
- List of Restaurants and Hotels in the area.
- If there is a meal included with the event describe it.
- Date, place and time the event starts and its likely duration.
- Contingencies for weather.
- Event Chair and Co-Chair contact information.
- Closing date on registrations.

Once a Wilderness Challenge is approved there may be other requirements that must be fulfilled that will be designed to fit the individual Challenge. One example may be a sealed medical form for each participant in case of emergency. Depending on the safety regards of the participants particular items may be required for participation.

Two things that must be included with every Challenge are a Bandana and an 8x10 picture of the group participating. Everyone participating in the event gets these two items. The Bandana should be of the color scheme chosen by the Wilderness Challenge Committee and will have the event specifics embroidered on it. This Bandana must be worn visibly by all participants during the event. It can be tied around the head or arm, tucked in clothing or belt, as long as the embroidery is visible. If you need help finding bandanas the committee will be happy to point you in the right direction. Embroidery should be done locally. The picture of the group should be taken prior to the start of the event. A member of the ground crew can take them out for processing and to have an 8x10 made for every participant. Upon completion of the event you will have an autograph session where every participant signs every Photo. Gold or Silver paint pens are best for this if the picture has a dark background. A black sharpie is better on lighter pictures.

Anything else you want to include in the bid is strictly up to you and will be icing on the cake for making a good bid and attracting participants.

There is no deadline for submitting a bid. Any Unit may send in a bid at any time on behalf of their Brigade, as long as a Challenge has not already been awarded for that particular Brigade for the year being considered. It should be sent in no closer to the event than 60 days prior to the planned date. Once the Wilderness Challenge Committee receives the bid they will notify the Brigade in question that a bid has been received and ask if anyone else is interested in submitting. They will give two weeks to allow for other submissions before making a decision. Once the bid is awarded the coordinator for the Brigade Challenge will start advertising. At least four weeks must be given to allow all interested Marines and Fleet members to register for the event. This is a good reason for planning as far ahead as possible. Of course you can also send in a bid as much as six months or more prior to your intended event date to give as much time as possible for registration.

Once you have created a bid it should be sent to anyone on the Wilderness Challenge Committee as listed in the back of this publication. Make sure to ask for confirmation of your bid. If you do not receive one, contact someone else on the list. socialize. Others have camping trips, picnics, or fund raisers. Still other chapters never meet at all. These are correspondence chapters, who conduct most of their business and activities through the mail, be it postal or electronic. This doesn't mean they are any less active or effective than other chapters, either.

SECTION 3 - What is the Wilderness Challenge?

The Wilderness Challenge is a yearly event meant to encourage physical activity. Its purpose is to challenge the participants by pitting them against nature, physical or mental difficulties. It should be physically or mentally challenging in nature but should be based A on good clean fun.

The first three Challenges were hikes in the Great Smoky Mountains. They were several miles long and very physically challenging due to the hostile terrain. But any kind of battle against nature or physical tests can qualify as a Wilderness Challenge. Competitions between members or teams are not discouraged but they should not come across as a winner/loser scenario. Anyone who participates should be considered a winner and all receive the same reward for participating.

Each Brigade in the Corps can be granted a part of the Wilderness Challenge. These will be labeled as Brigade Challenges but will be considered as a part of the Corps Wilderness Challenge for the year. Any one who participates in a Brigade Challenge will be authorized to wear the Wilderness Challenge ribbon with the device for the year they participated. This will only be authorized once per year per Marine. However, any Marine can participate in as many Brigade Challenges as they wish during the year.

Every Brigade Challenge must be open to all members of Fleet and the Corps. It is not limited to just the members of the respective Brigade having the Challenge. Every Challenge will be publicly advertised to give all Marines and Fleet members a chance to participate if they wish. A website should be set up to explain the Challenge, registration fee and what is needed to participate. And contingencies should be planned for emergency situations or changes in weather.

Section 4 - Ground Crew

Any good Wilderness Challenge will include things besides the actual activity. It's hard for the participants to fix food for a meal while hiking, biking, canoeing, etc. For these things it is a good idea to have a Ground Crew. These people do the other tasks such as fix meals, develop the group pictures, pick up party supplies, and other tasks preparing for the noonday meal or other activities for when the actual physical part of the event is over. This also gives those who may not be physically able to participate a chance to qualify for the ribbon as support crew.

On Hikes they can keep radio contact with the hikers in case of emergencies. They can act as the water person during sport events. They can set up the lunch for a mid day break or a victory supper and party. At past Challenge ground crews have performed bartending and acted as towel boys for the participants in the hot tub after a hike. The possibilities are endless. They sometimes work harder than the participants. The most important job is having the group pictures processed and printed, getting the paint pens and markers for signatures and setting up the autograph session after the event. Ground Crews are a very important part of the Wilderness Challenge.

Section 5 - Advertising

A Wilderness Challenge notice must be posted to the Corps-L list at least six weeks prior to the event (or immediately after approval if less than six weeks remain) and once a week from then till registration is closed. Registration can start immediately upon advertisement and should be accepted for at least four weeks if the bid is granted six weeks or more before the event. Or it may run longer if you feel you won't have a problem getting the Bandanas done closer to the last minute.

Section 6 - Reiteration

Every Brigade can have one Challenge approved as an official SFMC Wilderness Challenge per year.

The Wilderness Challenge Committee sets the color scheme and device for each year's official Challenge.

All SFMC and STARFLEET members are allowed to participate. Non-Fleet guests can participate with a member sponsor.

Submissions must be received no later than 60 days prior to the event. Approval will be no later than 30 day prior to the event. Every possible effort is made to approve at least 45 days prior.

Event must be advertised and open to the entire Fleet and Corps. Advertisement must start four to six weeks before the event and once per week until the event.

All participants receive the same award for participating.

Each Challenge must have a Coordinator and Assistant Coordinator.

Bandanas and group pictures must be included in the price of the event. The ribbons and devices are the sole responsibility of the participant. The event may supply them if they wish.

At the conclusion of the event, the Coordinator is to submit a write-up of the Challenge to the SFMC for inclusion in related SFMC and FLEET publications.

Section 7— Examples

A website example may be found at the website following this paragraph. Remember, the website you will be viewing is NOT an active challenge. Do not attempt to register for this event. Key information not included with this website is local hotel and restaurant information, but should be included for the convenience of your Challenges participants. Local attractions and points of interest should also be included just in case some participants from far away care to make the event into a vacation.

Included with the website example are some .pdf files of a past event. NOTE: these do not match the event described in the website they are there simply as an example of documents or information that is good to included.

[Http://www.whosphotography.com/Wilderness/hike.htm](http://www.whosphotography.com/Wilderness/hike.htm)

Appendix A: Bandana



Appendix B: Group Picture



Appendix C: Wilderness Challenge Committee

WILDERNESS CHALLENGE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair:

Wade Olson, GEN SFMC

captwho@wildblue.net

Co-Chair:

Les Rickard, FADM SFI

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Member:

Linda Olson, LGN SFMC

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Observer:

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About the SFMC Academy

The Starfleet Marine Corps Academy was established by Commander Starfleet in 2164 when it was determined that Starfleet Academy could no longer adequately meet the needs of both services. The historical home of the United States' Navy and Marine Corps Academies, Annapolis, was selected as the new home of the SFMCA. The head of the Academy, known as DCO-Academy, TRACOM, is still headquartered at the main campus in Annapolis. The motto of the SFMCA is "Facta Non Verba" or, in Federation Standard, "Deeds not Words." This is reflected in the more informal academy slogan, "We lead by example... whether we mean to or not." The DCO-Academy, TRACOM reports to the Commanding Officer of the Training Command (COTRACOM) who, in addition to the SFMCA, oversees branch schools, enlisted personnel training, advanced technical schools, and periodic skill re-fresher courses. Most of these courses are held either at one of the SFMCA facilities, or at one of the many training facilities in the New Valley Forge system which is home to TRACOM. These facilities, together with an Oberth class space dock serving as TRACOM headquarters, comprise Station Valley Forge. Today, the SFMCA consists of 5 campuses, 8 training worlds, and 42 ranges and field courses throughout the UFP. Together with Station Valley Forge, the SFMCA comprises one of the largest and most advanced military training organizations in the known universe.

