

# About Winter Survival

## PLEASE READ ALL INFORMATION CAREFULLY!!

Winter Survival is an endurance hike, designed to provide a test of physical and mental abilities, managing in challenging conditions and carrying only minimal equipment.

### **What to Expect**

The route is approximately 40 miles and you will be expected to finish sometime on Saturday evening. You will walk between checkpoints, being given only one grid reference at a time. The check points will be manned by friendly staff who will make sure you are happy and well and your team's progress will be monitored by a control centre.

The location of Winter Survival is top secret until the event, so you won't find out where the event is taking place until the Friday evening when you will be telephoned and given details of the start location that you will need to get to.

Once you get to the start, you will have your kit checked, be given a map for the weekend and briefed on the event. You will then be given your first grid reference. At some point on Friday evening, you will reach the Night Stop, where you can get some sleep (in a Survival Bag).

Your progress is monitored so that the event can be safely managed. This allows us to be on the lookout for teams who might have got lost or who are struggling. There might be occasions when teams will need to be bussed on. This will mean your team will be picked up from a check point by minibus and taken to a check point further along the route. Decisions to bus teams on are not taken lightly and are at the discretion of the Winter Survival Committee.

You will be expected to use footpaths wherever possible. If you are found using a road where a footpath alternative exists, your team may be disqualified from the exercise.

### **Equipment**

You will need to be self-sufficient for the weekend; apart from being provided with a bacon roll (or alternative) on Saturday morning. We will send you a list of basic equipment that you will have to carry. It isn't a huge amount of kit so you won't need to carry a massive bag.

You will also be able to leave a bag with clean clothes and a sleeping bag at the start, so when you get back you can get changed and perhaps get some sleep before you go home.

If you arrive at the start without the correct equipment it may prevent you, and possibly your whole team, from taking part in the event. You may (and it is certainly not guaranteed) be able to borrow certain items of equipment once at the start, but your team will incur a time penalty.

## **Story Line and Cover Stories**

Winter Survival will always have a story line that you will be part of. You may be battling with aliens, undercover agents or saving the world! The story line may also involve you carrying out certain tasks.

You should however bear in mind that where ever there are goodies (generally that's you!) there are always bad guys out to stop you. The baddies are a group of people (generally referred to as the Opposition) who will fit in with the story line and will try to slow you down, hold you up and generally try to prevent you from completing your mission. They are best avoided if you can but may be more lenient if you have a convincing cover story for being out and about.

Come prepared with your cover stories. Previous cover stories have included Badger Watch, Dutch Mountain Rescue, Mad or Foreign Scientists, Duke of Edinburgh teams, Escaped Prisoners and French Foreign Legion. Create an identity for your team and make it real - carry your own props, produce false identities, maybe even have a friend who is willing to be called by Opposition to back up your story! Be imaginative and put some effort into it.

## **Finishing**

Finishing Survival is not a simple task and not something that many teams do. Taking part in Survival and doing YOUR best is the most important. BUT.... you will need to be physically fit, have excellent navigation skills (including night navigation, sometimes in poor weather conditions) and plenty of determination. You will need to work as a team and sometimes the only thing that will keep you going is team spirit and determination.

If you decide to withdraw from the event, you will be taken by minibus back to the control centre, where you will arrange to go home. Teams that finish, depending on the time, will either be able to arrange to go home, or will stay the night at the control centre and should be collected by 8am on the Sunday morning.

## **Emergencies**

An emergency number is given to all teams at the start of the event and you will be issued with wristbands with your name the emergency phone number on.

**If you have any queries, please email [wintersurvival2@gmail.com](mailto:wintersurvival2@gmail.com)**