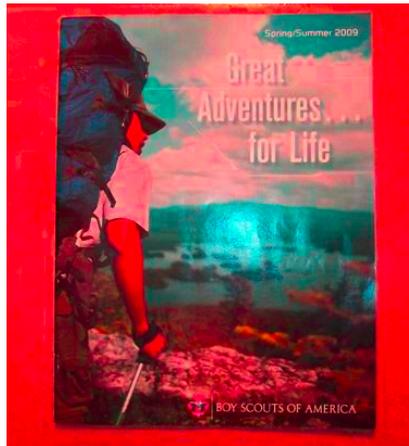


## Emergency Prep Catalogues: Copy Them!



So, how can you use catalogs? Find what items you need in them, then figure out cheaper alternatives! Use what you have; make what you can. If you can't find or make an alternative, shop around for the best prices (that's price plus shipping).

A good collection of emergency preparedness, camping, and Scouting gear is in the quarterly catalog from the Boy Scouts of America (BSA). Get it from a Boy Scout Council near you (look under "Youth Organizations" in the Yellow Pages).

My only problem with it - and most emergency prep catalogs - is the prices. BSA tents, for example, are \$100 and up. You can buy a 2-man tent for \$25 and up in Wal-Mart and other discount stores. It will not be BSA quality - but it may be good enough. If it rains hard, you can put a tarp over it, in addition to the rain fly.

Another example: cookware. A grill set is about \$70, and a 7-piece cookware set is \$63. Look at descriptions of items, and match them to items in your kitchen. The \$13 8-piece BSA wind deflector for a hiking stove can be duplicated with cardboard and aluminum foil. There's an \$8, 750 ml or  $\frac{3}{4}$  quart bottle for hiking. Instead, use the plastic bottles the water comes in. Use cheaper alternatives!

Another option is to tour the camping section in a store. Lots of neat stuff here! Figure out what is neat and what is required. Miniature battery-powered fans for inside your tent are neat but not required. Determine how you could duplicate the required items instead of buying them. Often you'll find you already have things at home you could use.

*[My honesty statement: I gripe about the prices in the BSA catalog, but I still order some things from it.]*