



Troop 42 Patrol “kitchens” or “Chuck Boxes”

After many request for plans and selling these completed boxes for several years we are making the plans available to everyone on our Troop 42.com website. If you use these plans we hope you find them helpful. If you would like to make free will donation for the use of these plans you can send them it to:

Troop 42
1215 Prairieview Dr NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402-7236

These are a wonderful piece of scouting gear. The benefits of this design include:

Aluminum construction is much lighter, more space efficient, durable (will not chip or splinter). Two young scouts can actually lift and carry these on their own (or if necessary four scouts with one on each corner). No rust ever. Powder coat finish is very durable.

These will hold much more gear than the traditional plywood design. Two drop down sides offer many advantages. The doors are working surfaces and by separating the cook side from the preparation side we help avoid cross contamination and allow more scouts to work on meals at the same time. The ability to store a stove and refillable 5# propane cylinder is a huge convenience and much cheaper than using 1# disposable cylinders. Think green.

Bullet proof, our first kitchens have seen 11 years of hard use and are basically as good as new.

Additional notes on how we use our kitchens:

Each kitchen is outfitted to serve 10 people and includes 10 (each) plates, cups, forks, and knives along with various cooking and cleaning equipment. We color code each kitchen. For example we have blue, plates and cups in the Blue #2 kitchen. Items that we have not found in the proper color are identified by drilling a small hole in the handle (if necessary) and attaching an appropriate colored zip tie. Each patrol has their own assigned kitchen and matching dry box and cooler all identified by the same color and number. On the trailer we also carry a 6 foot plastic table for each patrol to hold their kitchen etc.

If you are planning to build some of your own.

My suggestion to you is use our plans but also carefully measure your gear so you know it will fit. Stoves vary in thickness, we have learned over the years you may need to adjust the inside dividers. Find someone to donate the labor to make your boxes. We have a long tradition of working all the angles in our troop. A scout is thrifty! I learned if you approach the right people the right way you can get them to donate labor and/or materials.

Our first 4 kitchens, that we still use today, were built in the apprentice program of our local sheet metal union for FREE 15 years ago. We bought the hardware they supplied the labor and expertise. Those boxes used pop rivets at all connections and are still going strong. Later versions were welded for a neater appearance and are slightly easier to clean around the hinge.

Other hints:

Note the edges on the doors etc.... are double folded. This adds greatly to the rigidity and eliminates the sharp edge. This is not obvious in the plan view. This does take a special tool but a sheet metal shop should know what to do.

The handles are pretty common and can be found by searching "road case" or "flight case" hardware. Use pop rivets to attach these. You can shop on the same websites for closers for the doors. Our early version uses spring loaded closers on the outside. Now you can find a better closer that allows a smooth top.

We have found power coat companies willing to donate a free paint job if you ask nice and do some of the prep work for them.

Use the pictures on our website to better get a feel for details and what these will look like when done.

These plans are offered as a reference only. They do not show every detail, they are a guide. We do not guarantee their completeness or warranty them in any way. Use at your own risk. That stated if you notice issues please let us know. We are scouters and want to be helpful.

Happy trails. Yours in the scouting movement,

Troop 42 Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Additional comments or questions contact:

Tracy@Troop42.com or 319-551-2505