

Foundation Skill Series

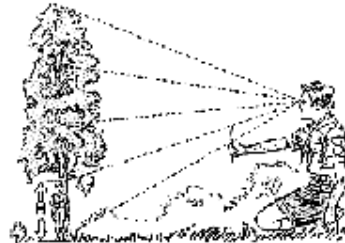
Field Measuring



The following methods of measuring can be used in the field to closely measure the height of objects and the width of obstacles that you may encounter. With practice, these methods can be used with a high degree of accuracy. It is also essential that you know your pace count in feet as well as meters to use some of these methods effectively.

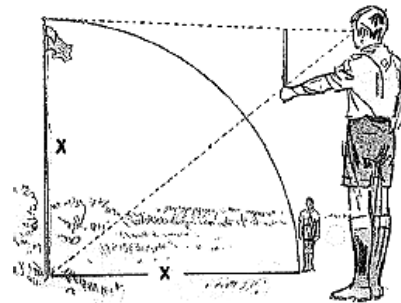
Pencil or Stick Method

Place a buddy whose height you know against the tree or make a mark for your own height on the trunk. Step back. Hold a stick or pencil up before you in your outstretched hand. With one eye closed, measure off on the stick with your thumbnail the height of your buddy or mark. Then move the stick up to see how many times this measurement goes into the height of the tree. Multiply the height of your buddy with the number found. This gives you the height of the tree.



Tree Felling Method

Hold a stick upright in your outstretched hand. Move backwards away from the flagpole or tree you want to measure. Sight to the flagpole in such a way that the tip of the stick covers the tip of the pole. The place where your thumb is, is the foot. Then turn the stick 90 degrees to a horizontal position. Notice the point where the tip of the stick hits the ground. Pace the distance from this point to the foot of the flagpole to determine its height.



Napoleon Method

Stand on the shore. Bow your head, chin against chest. Hold one hand to your forehead, palm down. Move hand down until the front edge of it seems to touch the opposite shore. Now make half right turn, "transferring" the distance to your shore. The distance to the point which the edge of your hand seems to touch is the width of the river. Pace it. Napoleon would have used the brim of his hat instead of his hand. So can you if you have a broad brimmed Scout uniform hat.

