Free sample from The Trail Camera Scouting Plan & Pattern Log. This is worksheet 6 of 11. Get all 11 worksheets: trailcamsetup.com/kit/trail-camera-scouting-plan-and-pattern-log

Battery, Card & Check Interval Planner

How long a camera can be left alone, from this site's own battery and card models

Name _____ **Date** _____

The check interval is a trade: every visit risks pushing animals off the pattern you are trying to read, but a dead battery or a full card loses days. Plan each camera's interval as the shortest of its battery life, its card room and the question you are asking, then stick to it.

Battery life on 8 AA cells, in days (this site's battery model, an estimate)

Triggers a day	SD camera, lithium	SD camera, alkaline	SD camera, 10 s video, lithium	Cellular, good signal, lithium	Cellular, weak signal, lithium
10	421	211	103	110	91
20	276	138	55	74	58
50	136	68	23	38	28
100	73	37	11	21	15

At room temperature with half the triggers at night. Lithium AA cells keep about 90 percent of their capacity at 0F; alkaline cells about 65 percent at 32F and far less below. Real cameras vary by roughly 40 percent either way, so treat these as comparisons and run the battery life calculator for your own camera.

Card space used at 30 triggers a day (this site's file-size estimates)

Mode	14 days	30 days	45 days	Smallest card for 45 days
Single 20MP photos	1.8 GB	3.8 GB	5.7 GB	8 GB
3-shot burst at 30MP	7.8 GB	16.7 GB	25.1 GB	64 GB
10-second 1080p video	8.4 GB	18.0 GB	27.0 GB	64 GB

Smallest card allows 25 percent headroom, as this site's SD card calculator does. Cards over 32GB are SDXC; confirm the largest card your camera accepts in its manual. Two cards per camera, swapped at each check, beats one large card.

Your interval, camera by camera

Camera	Triggers a day (from the log)	Mode	Battery days (calculator)	Card days of room	Longest you want to wait	Check every (days)	Next check

Check every = the shortest of the three columns before it. The companion spreadsheet works this out for you.

Power and cards this sheet plans around

From this site's own catalog.

- **Energizer Ultimate Lithium AA (8-pack)**: One full set for most 8-cell cameras; the chemistry this sheet's cold-weather figures assume.
- **SanDisk Ultra 32GB SDHC**: Covers a month of single photos with room to spare, and fits cameras that only read SDHC.
- **Moultrie Solar Power Pack Gen 2**: Stretches a cellular camera's interval at a site with a few hours of direct sun; little help under heavy canopy.

Current prices and our latest picks for each item: **trailcamsetup.com/kit/trail-camera-scouting-plan-and-pattern-log/gear/**

Researched guidance, not professional advice. Check your state wildlife agency's current rules before placing any camera on land you hunt, on public land or near a property line, and get the landowner's permission on land that is not yours. Estimates in this kit come from this site's own models; real cameras vary.