



Nowhere is the romance of Scouting more evident than in camp. Whether it's a weekend campout or a couple of weeks at summer camp, the setting promises fun and adventure—and that's what brought young men into the troop in the first place.

And so a troop that is under canvas almost every month of the year will have a strong appeal for Scouts. Conversely, a troop that rarely gets outdoors will have trouble holding a boy's interest.

This month's program focuses on camping skills. Young Scouts should learn the basics of living comfortably and safely in the outdoors, while older Scouts hone their knowledge of the basics and tackle more advanced campcraft.

The big event will be a campout. We're calling it an easy livin' campout to convey the idea of learning to live under canvas without stress. But the campout may have another emphasis, too—perhaps nature study, astronomy, pioneering, conservation, fishing, or wilderness survival.

Be sure to hike at least 2 miles into and out of the campsite so that younger Scouts who are working on the Camping portion of their advancement to First Class can get credit for it. The patrol leaders' council should aim to have a model campsite, with neat patrol sites and good health, safety, and sanitation practices. The PLC should also plan activities that will be fun and enhance the troop's Scoutcraft skills. And you'll want to have an evening campfire with elements of both fun and inspiration.

SCOUTING OUTCOMES

This month's patrol and troop activities should give your Scouts:

- The knowledge and skill to be comfortable in camp.
- A sense of communion with nature and God.

- Greater respect for the outdoors and a determination to follow the Outdoor Code.
- Growing self-confidence.

ADVANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

By the end of the month, all Scouts should have met the majority of their basic camping requirements through First Class. Depending on the campout activities, they may also complete all or part of the following rank requirements:

Tenderfoot

- Outdoor—Cooking, camping
- Citizenship—Flag ceremonies, Good Turn
- Patrol/troop participation—Patrol identification
- Personal development—Scout Oath and Law

Second Class

- Outdoor—Cooking, camping, hiking
- Citizenship—Flag ceremonies, Good Turn
- Patrol/troop participation—Leadership
- Personal development—Scout Oath and Law

First Class

- Outdoor—Cooking, camping, hiking
- Citizenship—Flag ceremonies, Good Turn
- Patrol/troop participation
- Personal development—Scout Oath and Law

Merit Badges. Older Scouts can concentrate on the Camping merit badge this month; they should be able to complete all but the last two requirements. Depending on activities planned for the campout, they may also complete requirements in Cooking, Hiking, Pioneering, Wilderness Survival, and nature-related merit badges.