



With the possible exception of "It's time for swimming" no call in camp is as welcome as "Come and get it!" There's something about the outdoors that adds flavor and zest to the simplest meal. Even the lowly hot dog and hamburger taste better in a camp setting.

This month we will strive to broaden the Scouts' culinary horizons by showing them how to prepare varied camp meals without spending a lot of time around the cooking fire.

Troop meeting demonstrations and practice will concentrate on the cooking skills that younger Scouts need to learn—menu planning, use of woods tools to prepare fire fuel, fire-lays, and cooking. Older Scouts can work on more advanced cooking skills.

The big event will be a patrol feast. Each patrol will be asked to prepare a real feast, well beyond the franks and beans meal, and share it with other patrols. Parents may be invited, too.

The patrol feast could be the climax of a day hike or the centerpiece of a weekend campout. If the patrol leaders' council decides on a campout, younger Scouts will be able to work on some of the Camping merit badge skills.

SCOUTING OUTCOMES

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

- An understanding of the importance of a balanced diet for good health.
- The skills and knowledge to cook nutritious meals.
- Greater confidence in their ability to live comfortably in the outdoors.
- Growing self-confidence.

ADVANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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

Tenderfoot

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

Second Class

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

First Class

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

Merit Badges. Experienced Scouts can concentrate on the Cooking merit badge this month; they should be able to complete most of the requirements. Depending on the activities during the campout/outing, they may also complete requirements in Camping, Backpacking, Pioneering, Wilderness Survival, and other nature-related merit badges.

PARENT PARTICIPATION

The patrol leaders' council may involve parents in the program feature this month by:

- Asking qualified parents to assist with instruction in cooking, fire preparation, and making meals.
- Inviting them to the patrol feast.
- Asking them to provide transportation to the feast.

PATROL LEADERS' COUNCIL

The PLC should meet in the middle of the previous month to plan troop activities for this program feature. If you don't complete all items on the following agenda, continue planning at PLC meetings after each troop meeting.