

SPECIAL COOKING



Here is a program feature for a troop that has gone beyond the basics of cooking. Scouts will learn how to use the Dutch oven and reflector oven and practice cooking with camp stoves, charcoal, and aluminum foil.

Since good meals are so important in camp, your patrol leaders' council will want to use this feature as soon as most Scouts have mastered the basics of cooking.

If possible, hold troop meetings outdoors where fires are permitted so that you can cook and sample the results. For at least one meeting, use the fuel that will be used to cook your camp banquet, this month's highlight activity.

The banquet should be just that—a real feast, with each patrol taking pains to prepare a full course dinner, from soup or salad to dessert. Encourage them to tackle special dishes that require a Dutch oven or reflector oven.

Some troops have a camping tradition of laying out a real spread for their adult leaders several times a year. They have tablecloths, flowers, china, and silverware, with the Scouts serving as waiters as well as cooks. That may be taking gourmet cooking a little further than your PLC wants to go, but it's a fun time.

Whether or not you go that far, consider inviting the Scouts' families to the camp banquet. The banquet can be the end of a day's outing in the woods or the highlight of a weekend campout.

SCOUTING OUTCOMES

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

- Considerable improvement in cooking skills.
- Greater confidence in their ability to live comfortably in the outdoors.
- An opportunity to use new styles of cooking.

ADVANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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

Tenderfoot

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

Second Class

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

First Class

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

Merit Badges. Older Scouts can concentrate on the Cooking merit badge this month; they should be able to complete many of the requirements. Depending on activities during the month, they may also complete requirements in Cooking, Hiking, Camping, Backpacking, Wilderness Survival, and other outdoor-related merit badges.

PARENT PARTICIPATION

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

- Asking qualified parents to assist with cooking instruction.