



- Patrol/troop participation—Leadership
- 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 during the campout, they may also cover requirements in Cooking, Hiking, Backpacking, Wilderness Survival, and nature-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 instruction for camping skills.
- Inviting parents on the cool campout.
- Asking them to provide transportation to the campsite.

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 your planning at PLC meetings after each troop meeting.

- Choose a campsite for the cool campout.
- Review winter camping skills. See the *Fieldbook* and the Camping merit badge pamphlet.
- Inventory the troop's camping equipment. Check the condition of tents, flies, stoves, and tools. If repairs or replacements are needed, ask the troop committee for help.
- Plan activities for the campout—games, contests, skills instruction, etc. But avoid sweating from over-exertion, because clothes will become damp and unable to keep the wearer warm.

- Plan details of troop meetings for the month. Consider inviting Camping, Wilderness Survival, and First Aid merit badge counselors to help with instruction.
- Hold a junior leader training session on evaluation (*Scoutmaster Handbook*).

FEATURE EVENT

Cool Campout

Choose your campsite with regard to the experience of your troop, especially if low temperatures can be expected. If it's reasonable to anticipate temperatures in the 20s or below and you have a lot of first-time winter campers, it might be a good idea to camp near some cabins or other building in case of really severe weather.

But don't pamper the Scouts by planning a cabin camp. Even the beginning campers will enjoy the challenge of tent camping in winter and learning how to be comfortable in adverse conditions.

The patrol leaders' council should take extra care in preparing for the campout. Make sure that all Scouts know how to dress properly, how to pitch a tent for maximum protection from the wind, and how to recognize signs of frostbite and hypothermia, the chief dangers in a winter camp. Don't let anybody leave the site without at least one buddy accompanying him in case one of them gets into trouble.

In planning activities for the campout, the PLC should remember that everything takes longer in a winter camp. Preparing for and conducting contests, making cooking fires, and cooking will take more time. And, of course, it gets dark early, so Scouts should start gathering fuel early for supper, if you are cooking with wood.