



MERIT BADGE WORKSHEET

Camping

Scouts BSA · Outdoors · Eagle-required

Name

Started

Completed

Camping is at the heart of Scouting, and this badge celebrates all the nights you spend outdoors. You'll learn to plan, pack, cook, and camp safely while leaving the land as you found it. Most of the work happens naturally on troop campouts, so keep track of your nights from the start.

Requirements

Every official requirement, in plain language. Check the official wording when you sign off (scouting.org/merit-badges/camping/). Tips and examples are ideas, not extra requirements.

1 Safety, weather, and first aid

Tips for this section: Learn first aid for common camping problems like blisters, insect stings, and heat or cold injuries. Check the forecast before every trip.

- ☐ **1a** Explain to your counselor the hazards you're most likely to meet while camping and how to anticipate, prevent, reduce, and respond to them

- ☐ **1b** Discuss with your counselor why you should watch the weather before and during campouts, and tell how you'd be ready if it turns bad

- ☐ **1c** Show you know how to prevent and give first aid for camping injuries and illnesses: blisters, dehydration, hypothermia, frostbite, heat reactions, altitude sickness, hyperventilation, insect stings, tick bites, and snakebite

- ☐ **2** Learn what Leave No Trace's Seven Principles and the Outdoor Code mean and explain them, then write a plan for how you and your group will follow them on your next outing

Tip: Use the Leave No Trace principles on every campout. Write your plan with a specific upcoming trip in mind.

Example: Pick your patrol's next trip and write a Leave No Trace plan just for it. For example: "We'll repack food into reusable bags at home so there's less trash, camp on the gravel pads, and do a litter sweep of the site before we leave."

- ☐ **3** Write a plan for an overnight trek, then show you can reach the campsite using a topographic map plus one of these tools (choose 1 of 3 below)

Tip: Practice navigation in a local park before your trek. Share your plan with your patrol and leaders.

Example: Plan a two-day hike on a state park trail. Mark the route on a paper map, note water sources and a bail-out point, and practice taking compass bearings between two landmarks in a local park first.

- ☐ **3a** A compass

- ☐ **3b** A GPS receiver

- ☐ **3c** A smartphone with a GPS app

4 Duty rosters and helping others camp

Tips for this section: Make a duty roster that shares jobs fairly. Help a younger patrol or unit get ready for their trip.

Example for this section: On a sheet, list each patrol member and the jobs for each meal: cook, assistant cook, water and fire, cleanup. Rotate jobs so no one scrubs pots twice in a row, then post it at camp.

- ☐ **4a** Make a duty roster for a real overnight campout that shows how your patrol is organized and what each member does

- ☐ **4b** Help a Scout patrol or Webelos unit near you get ready for a real campout: duty roster, menus, gear, overall planning, and setting up camp

5 Clothing, footwear, and essentials

Tips for this section: Build your gear list from what worked, and didn't, on past campouts. Keep your Scout Basic Essentials in your pack.

- ☐ **5a** List the clothes you'd need for overnight campouts in warm weather and in cold weather, and explain what layering means

- ☐ **5b** Discuss footwear for different weather and why the right footwear protects your feet

- ☐ **5c** Explain how to care for and store camping gear, including clothing, footwear, and bedding

- ☐ **5d** List the Scout Basic Essentials for any campout and explain why you need each one

- ☐ **5e** Show your pack to your Scoutmaster for inspection, dressed and equipped correctly for an overnight campout

6 Tents, sanitation, packs, and sleeping bags

Tips for this section: Compare different tents your troop uses. Pick campsites on durable ground away from water and hazards.

- ☐ **6a** Describe 4 kinds of tents, when and where to use each, and how to care for tents; then pitch a tent with another Scout

- ☐ **6b** Discuss why camp sanitation matters and why water must be treated, then show 2 ways to treat water

- ☐ **6c** Describe what to think about when choosing where to set up your tent

- ☐ **6d** Explain how internal- and external-frame packs differ and discuss the pros and cons of each

- ☐ **6e** Discuss kinds of sleeping bags and which suit different conditions, explain how to care for yours and keep it dry, and make a comfortable bed on the ground

7 Get ready for a patrol overnight

Tips for this section: Pack the night before and check your list twice. Pack so you can reach rain gear quickly.

- ☐ **7a** Make a checklist of the personal and patrol gear you'll need

- ☐ **7b** Pack your gear plus your share of patrol equipment and food; show you can reach first-needed items quickly and that the pack is comfortable, balanced, neat, and not too heavy or bulky

8 Stoves, menus, and camp cooking

Tips for this section: Plan a menu your patrol will enjoy. Use stoves only with adult supervision, following safety rules.

Example for this section: Plan a weekend menu for your patrol with recipes and a food list: two breakfasts, three lunches, and two suppers, like oatmeal with fruit, wraps, and a one-pot chili. On a campout, cook one breakfast, one lunch, and one dinner from it, with at least one as a trail meal on a lightweight stove, and note what you'd change next time.

8a Stove and fuel safety

- ☐ **8a1** Explain safety steps for using a propane or butane/propane stove

- ☐ **8a2** Explain safety steps for using a liquid fuel stove

- ☐ **8a3** Explain how to store extra fuel safely

- ☐ **8b** Discuss the pros and cons of different kinds of lightweight cooking stoves

- ☐ **8c** Plan a camp menu with recipes and a food list for your patrol (2 breakfasts, 3 lunches, 2 suppers); explain how it would differ for a backpacking or float trip and how to protect food from weather, animals, and contamination

- ☐ **8d** While camping outdoors, cook at least 1 breakfast, 1 lunch, and 1 dinner for your patrol from your 8c menu; at least one must be a trail meal cooked on a lightweight stove

9 Camping experience

Tips for this section: Keep a camping log with dates, places, and what you did. Ask your leaders which experiences count.

- ☐ **9a** Camp 20+ nights at designated Scouting events; one long-term camp counts up to 6 nights, and each added long-term camp counts 2. Sleep under the sky, in a tent you pitched (unless set up for you), a safe outdoor hammock, or an open-front shelter; cabins, hotels, and lock-ins don't count

9b Outdoor adventures on your campouts: Choose 2 of 6

- ☐ **9b1** With proper preparation and qualified supervision, hike up a mountain, climbing at least 1,000 vertical feet

- ☐ **9b2** With proper preparation and qualified supervision, backpack, snowshoe, or cross-country ski at least 4 miles

- ☐ **9b3** With proper preparation and qualified supervision, bike at least 15 miles or for at least 4 hours

- ☐ **9b4** With proper preparation and qualified supervision, take a nonmotorized water trip of at least 4 hours or 5 miles

- ☐ **9b5** With proper preparation and qualified supervision, plan and do an overnight snow campout

- ☐ **9b6** With proper preparation and qualified supervision, rappel down a route of 30 feet or more

- ☐ **9c** On one of these campouts, carry out a conservation project that the landowner or land management agency has approved, alone or with others

- ☐ **10** Discuss what this badge taught you about survival, conservation, citizenship, public health, and your own health and safety, and how Scout spirit, the Scout Oath, and the Scout Law fit with camping and outdoor ethics

Tip: Think about what you've learned from your camping nights and share a few real examples with your counselor.

Example: Bring two or three real stories to your counselor: the night it rained and how your patrol kept gear dry, or the trail you helped repair. Talk about what each one taught you.