

Camping Merit Badge Prerequisite Verification

Name: _____ Troop: _____

I certify that the scout listed above has completed the following requirements* for the Camping Merit Badge (please initial):

- ____ **4b** Help a patrol prepare for a campout
- ____ **5e** Pack Inspection
- ____ **7b** Pack personal & patrol gear on campout
- ____ **8c** Plan a camping trip menu
- ____ **8d** Cook meals on a camping trip
- ____ **9a** Camp 20 nights with scouts
- ____ **9b** Complete certain activities on trips
- ____ **9c** Perform a conservation project

Signed,

UNIT LEADER SIGNATURE

UNIT LEADER NAME AND POSITION

Clarification on Requirement 9a (Camping Nights)

- The requirement begins with “Camp a total of 20 nights.” That means **20 overnights**, so a weekend trip from Friday through Sunday is two nights.
- Next it says, “at designated Scouting activities or events.” This means the experiences are **held under the auspices of some level of the BSA**, and that “Scouting” happens on them. For example, an individual family or a couple of Scouts and their parents heading off into the woods doesn’t count.
- A long-term camping experience is defined as **at least five consecutive nights**. One of these experiences is allowed, and **up to six nights may count** toward the requirement. For example, Sunday through Saturday. If a Scout goes on a 10-night trek, only six of those nights count.
- If a Scout goes to summer camp twice for a total of 12 nights, only one of the summer camps will count — for up to six nights.
- The remainder of the camping nights **must be accumulated through short-term camping** — normally weekend troop campouts. The long-term camping experience must also be a “**designated Scouting activity or event**.” This could be at a council summer camp or on a troop’s own 50 miler, a Jamboree, high-adventure base, etc.
- All 20 nights **must be spent under the sky or in a tent**, so **nights in cabins don’t count**.
- If camping is done at a camp that **provides tents that are already set up, then all is good**. If tents are not already pitched, the Scout must pitch his tent. If he is sleeping in a two-man tent, then it would be reasonable the he and his buddy set the tent up together. Sleeping in a tent that Dad or the Scoutmaster, etc., pitched doesn’t count.
- I’ve heard feedback from parents with Scout in troops that don’t do very much camping. They can get in the long-term outing, but it takes a long time for their troop to get out on enough campouts to make up the other 14 nights. As a workaround they suggest they will send their son to summer camp, but then **take him home after four nights** so the experience will not count as a long-term camp. **This doesn’t fulfill the requirement**. The short-term campouts provide variety in both preparation and experience, and the Scouts are more likely to have to set up their own tent and take more responsibility for outdoor living skills. A long-term summer camp is still a long-term camp even if the Scout is there for only a portion of the time. It’s an entirely different adventure and usually doesn’t call for the same level of self-reliance required for a short term camp.