

Troop 31 “Camping Nights” Credit Guidelines

To earn the Camping merit badge, which is an Eagle-required merit badge, a scout must camp at least 20 days and 20 nights at a designated scout activity. Only one week of long-term camp can be used for this requirement. (A long-term camp is a permanent facility where Scouts stay in one place for the duration.) This document addresses some frequently asked questions about what constitutes a camping night for this requirement.

1. Each night should be under the sky or in a tent you have pitched. If the camp provides a tent that has already been pitched, you need not pitch your own tent.
2. Only 7 nights of long-term Boy Scout camp (Oljato, Emerald Bay, Makualla, kayak camp) can be counted, regardless of how many times you go or how many different camps you attend.
3. Special overnight campouts during these long-term camps are not counted separately toward the requirement.
4. All backcountry camping nights, such as at Philmont and Northern Tier high-adventure camps or on Sierra backpacking trips, count toward the requirement, because scouts move and set up camp every day and are responsible for cooking every day.
5. Other scout-sponsored camps that can be counted:
 - a. Family camping trip organized by Troop 31
 - b. Trail to First Class
 - c. Mountain Man Rendezvous
 - d. Camporee/Zomboree/weekend campouts organized by the Council at Cutter or Boulder scout reservations.
 - e. Other overnight camping or backpacking trips that are organized by the Troop or patrol
6. Any camping nights that have not been initiated by the Troop, but rather by the scout himself or by his family or friends should be approved by the Scoutmaster in advance and some form of documentation must be provided to the Advancement Chairperson for credit to be given.

If you have other questions about camping nights, please contact the Scoutmaster.