



Anyone who has been a Scout leader for more than a few weeks has heard the saying, "Scouting is three-fourths outing." Hiking, camping, and other outings are the heart of Scouting's attraction for boys, and that's why successful troops spend a lot of time outdoors.

This month's program feature concentrates on hiking skills, but there are plenty of opportunities to learn other outdoor lore. Younger Scouts will be given the chance to work on advancement for Tenderfoot through First Class. Older Scouts will be able to tackle some requirements for several outdoor-related merit badges.

The troop's big event will be a trail trek into unfamiliar territory. Make it at least 10 miles long. Remember that a hike is a walk with a purpose, so plan something special for the trek. It might be nature study, signaling practice, or some other Scoutcraft skill in which your troop members are weak.

The trail trek could be a 1-day outing, but it would be better as a weekend campout, with Scouts backpacking in and out of the campsite. In that way, there would be more opportunities for fun and advancement.

SCOUTING OUTCOMES

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

- Improved physical fitness.
- A sense of communion with nature and God.
- Greater appreciation for the outdoors and a determination to follow the Outdoor Code.
- Growing self-confidence in their ability to be comfortable on the trail and in camp.

ADVANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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

Tenderfoot

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

Second Class

- Outdoor—Cooking, camping, hiking, nature
- Citizenship—Flag ceremonies
- 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 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 complete requirements in Cooking, Hiking, Orienteering, Backpacking, Pioneering, Wilderness Survival, and other nature-related merit badges.