



Give an experienced outdoorsman a bow saw, hand ax, and some poles and ropes, and in short order he will make some camp furniture, bridge a stream, and make a big "toy" like a monkey bridge.

The skill is called pioneering. Boys love to learn how to do it, and of course it will increase their capabilities in the outdoors.

Pioneering requires plenty of poles and lots of lashing line and heavy rope, especially for big projects like monkey bridges. Before planning this program feature, be sure that you will have access to both, especially for the big event, a woodsman's weekend. If necessary, you can do miniature pioneering at troop meetings using garden canes and heavy rubber bands. But for the big event, be sure that you will have lots of poles and smaller spars as well as lashing line and rope.

The woodsman's weekend might be held at Scout camp, if the camp has pioneering gear. Otherwise, look for a campsite where you can get permission to gather a number of poles and spars at least 6 feet long and 2- to 3-inches thick, as well as smaller stuff. Someone who has a wood lot that needs thinning might give the troop permission to cut what you need.

Plan to make at least one big pioneering project during the weekend. For ideas, see the *Pioneering* merit badge pamphlet. Also schedule some games and interpatrol contests that require pioneering skills.

SCOUTING OUTCOMES

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

- Enhanced outdoor skills, especially in knot-tying and lashings.

- Greater understanding of the importance of conservation.
- An understanding of some of the principles of engineering as they build temporary structures and camp equipment.
- Growing self-confidence.

ADVANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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

Tenderfoot

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

Second Class

- Outdoor—Cooking, camping, hiking
- Citizenship—Flag ceremonies, Good Turn
- 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 and Pioneering merit badges this month; they should be able