



to complete all but the last two requirements. Depending on activities during the campout, they may also complete requirements in Cooking, Hiking, Pioneering, Wilderness Survival, and other nature-related merit badges.

PARENT PARTICIPATION

The patrol leaders' council can involve parents in the program feature this month by:

- Asking qualified parents to help with troop meeting instruction.
- Inviting parents to come along on the woodsman's weekend.
- Asking parents to provide transportation to the campsite.

PATROL LEADERS' COUNCIL

The PLC should meet in the middle of the previous month to plan troop activities for this program feature. If you don't complete all items on the following agenda, continue planning at PLC meetings after each troop meeting.

- Choose a campsite for the woodsman's weekend. Remember that you will need a supply of poles and smaller limbs for pioneering projects. These materials are available at some Scout camps. If your council's camp does not have them, make sure that you can get permission to obtain suitable materials elsewhere; *do not plan to cut trees at the site without the owner's permission.*
- Plan other activities for the woodsman's weekend. Some ideas are on these pages.
- Practice knots and lashings, if equipment is available.
- Consider inviting a Pioneering merit badge counselor to troop meetings to help with instruction.
- If your troop meetings will be indoors (or if you will not have access to poles and ropes), plan to do miniature

pioneering with Scout staves or closet poles, or with garden canes and rubber bands.

- Assign a patrol to drill holes in scrap wood or fiberboard pieces about 2-by-3 feet for use as knot boards for the first troop meeting.
- Hold a junior leader training session on counseling (*Scoutmaster Handbook*).

FEATURE EVENT

Woodsman's Weekend

When the Boy Scouts of America was born nearly 80 years ago, many troops could go just a few miles outside of town and get permission from a farmer to chop down trees and build log cabins. Those days are long past.

Today's BSA conservation ethic forbids cutting live trees unless someone wants a wood lot thinned out. So it will probably be necessary to find a site where pioneering materials are already available, such as a local council Scout camp. Or, if you are lucky enough to have a supply of poles, you may have to truck them to your campsite.

In any event, try to have enough poles so that the troop can assemble at least one big pioneering project, like the bridges and towers in the *Pioneering* merit badge pamphlet.

For smaller projects, such as the camp furniture pictured in the *Boy Scout Handbook*, you may be able to find sturdy limbs among the downed wood at the campsite.

Campout Activities

Unless the troop has a lot of experienced woodsmen, it may take several hours for the Scouts to build a big project. If there is time, try some of the following contests, all of which require pioneering skills.