



Early man practiced wilderness survival because he had to. We practice it today because it is a challenge and because even today we might confront a situation requiring knowledge of survival techniques in the wild.

Wilderness survival requires the ability to evaluate circumstances, make decisions, and keep a clear mind. Plan to test your troop's members for these attributes.

The survival weekend highlight could be held in a Scout camp or in a wild area that will challenge their ability to build shelters and find food. Make sure that you have the necessary permissions if it is private property.

Do not purposely destroy the environment in order to work on your skills. In some cases, you may have to simulate experiences to avoid damaging the environment. Keep in mind that the troop's aim is not to become survival experts but to gain some basic skills that would be useful in an emergency. As the patrol leaders' council plans activities, remember to consider the skill levels of your Scouts.

SCOUTING OUTCOMES

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

- Basic outdoor skills.
- Enhanced skills in using natural resources to survive.
- A greater understanding of the importance of conservation.
- Improved ability in making decisions.
- 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 for First Class. Depending on the campout activities, they may also complete all or part of the following rank requirements:

Tenderfoot

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

Second Class

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

First Class

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

Merit Badges. Older Scouts can concentrate on the Camping and Wilderness Survival merit badges this month; they should be able to complete most of the requirements. They may also complete requirements for Cooking, Hiking, Orienteering, and some nature-related merit badges.