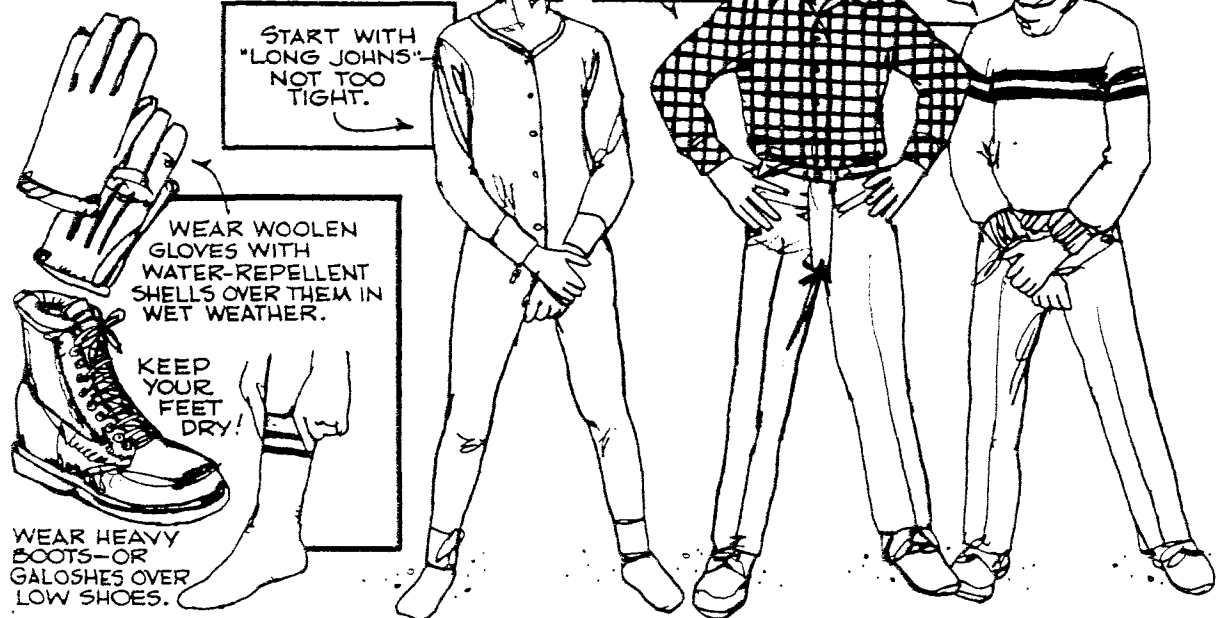


CLOTHING FOR WINTER CAMPING

IN COLD WEATHER,
WEAR LOOSE FITTING
CLOTHES IN LAYERS
OR "SHELLS"
KEEP IT DRY!



Say the word "camp" and most Scouts and Scouters will conjure up an image of sunny skies, the balmy air of spring or fall, or the heat of summer, and lots of outdoor fun.

But there's plenty of fun in winter camping, too. Admittedly, conditions can be rough, especially in the northern states when snow blankets the ground and temperatures dip into the teens or lower. Curiously, though, your troop is likely to remember with pleasure the outings when the Scouts overcame cold, wet, and mud and had a memorable time anyway.

Winter camping is one thing in northern Minnesota or Maine, quite another in Florida, southern California, or Hawaii. Adapt the suggested program on these pages to your climate and conditions. In warm weather climes, troops may want to concentrate on wet-weather skills instead of those highlighted here.

The troop meeting plans call for instruction and practice in the skills required to be comfortable and safe while camping in low-temperature periods when snow may be on the ground. The primary resource is the *Fieldbook*.

The importance of being prepared is stressed because the winter environment is unforgiving. In summer, if a Scout forgets to bring extra socks and underwear on a campout, it's no big deal. But in winter, such forgetfulness is serious because of the danger of getting wet and having no change of dry clothes. Being cold and wet could reduce the body's core temperature, leading to hypothermia.

The big event will, of course, be a cool campout. If your troop has a lot of young Scouts, consider choosing a site with access to cabins or other shelters in case the weather gets beyond their capabilities.

SCOUTING OUTCOMES

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

- The knowledge and skills to be comfortable in camp.
- A sense of communion with nature and God.
- Greater respect for the outdoors and resourcefulness in learning to deal with difficulties.
- Growing self-confidence.
- Esprit de corps from having worked together to defeat the elements.

ADVANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

By the end of the month, all Scouts should have met the majority of their basic camping requirements through 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, Good Turn
- Patrol/troop participation—Patrol identification
- Personal development—Scout Oath and Law

Second Class

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

First Class

- Outdoor—Cooking, camping, nature, hiking
- Citizenship—Flag ceremonies, Good Turn, first aid