Outdoor Skills | Eagle Required

Camping Merit Badge

The most-earned merit badge — camping skills built through nights of actual troop campouts.

Typical time to complete: **Ongoing (20 nights required)**

GOOD FIT IF YOU LIKE

Outdoors & Nature | Building & Making

Tips for Earning This Badge

1. Track your camping nights from your very first campout — do not wait until you are working on the badge.
2. The 20 nights go faster than most scouts expect with an active troop. Count every approved campout.
3. Nights you camped for Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class can also count here (Guide to Advancement 4.2.3.6), as long as each night meets requirement 9a: at a Scouting activity, outdoors or in a tent or open shelter, not a cabin or lock-in, and only up to six nights from one long-term camp.
4. The cooking, shelter, and knot requirements are tested — practice them at campouts, not just at home.
5. This badge cannot be earned at a merit badge college. It requires actual nights in the field.
6. Counselors want to see these skills performed at an actual campsite, not described in an office — save your demonstration for a real campout when possible.
7. A common pitfall: scouts who camp plenty but never write down which nights counted. Keep a simple running list so you are not reconstructing years of campouts from memory.

Official Requirements

We keep this page focused on tips and what to expect, not a copy of the requirement text — requirements get revised periodically, and scouts are generally held to whichever version was current when they started the badge (the same reason Scoutbook lets you filter by pamphlet version). For the exact, current wording, check your Scoutbook record for this badge or the official page below.

Camping on scouting.org ↗

Finding a Counselor

Ask your Scoutmaster for the council's merit badge counselor list. For popular badges, a parent in your troop may already be registered as a counselor. If your troop doesn't have one, your council's advancement chair can help connect you.