

Virtual Camping Nights

DO THEY COUNT?

BSA has made temporary changes that allow Scouts to count virtual camping nights for rank requirements, Order of the Arrow eligibility, and the Camping merit badge. Special conditions apply to each of these.

All of these COVID-19 temporary changes are in effect only until September 1, 2020.

Rank Requirements

See the full list of temporary rank requirement changes [HERE](#).

Order of the Arrow Camping Nights

Virtual camping may be counted toward the required nights of camping for OA election eligibility if all of the following stipulations are met:

- All camping nights are the direct result of COVID-19 pandemic restrictions and are part of a unit-organized unit camping event (i.e., multiple members of the same unit are involved and camping simultaneously at remote locations).
- Some form of unit-organized communications occur either during or immediately following the camping night.
- All youth protection policies and digital safety guidelines are followed.
- No more than 3 nights of virtual camping are credited in any month. The nights occur while government- or council- imposed COVID-19 restrictions are in place.

SEE ORIGINAL REFERENCE

Camping Merit Badge

For the Camping merit badge, BSA looks at the basic definition of what is (and what isn't) a camping night.

- A Scout must camp overnight in a tent or under the stars. Sleeping in a building/structure does not meet the intent.
- You must camp at least 20 nights. Nights camped since joining a troop may count.
- The camping nights must be part of a designated Scouting activity or event. An individual family or a couple of Scouts and their parents does not meet this requirement. *BSA has further clarified that during COVID-19 social distancing, the camping must be done as part of a Scoutmaster-approved unit virtual camping event.*
- One long-term camping experience of up to six consecutive nights may be applied to the requirement. This could be at a council summer camp, a Jamboree, or a high adventure base. *BSA has further clarified that during COVID-19 social distancing, camping in the back yard would not be considered a long-term camp.*
- All 20 nights must be spent under the sky or in a tent, so cabin camping does not count.
- A Scout cannot go to a long-term camp and bail out early to shorten it and count as a short-term weekend campout. The weekend camping adventure with the Scout's troop is a different experience from a summer camp.

SEE ORIGINAL REFERENCE