

General Information about the Cold Weather Camping Awards

To help promote outdoor winter camping, the Mason-Dixon Council is introducing two new camping awards. The aim of these awards is to increase scouter knowledge about safely camping in the cold and the related survival skills that might be needed in emergency situations. Hopefully this will encourage safe and fun tent experiences in the cold weather we experience in our council.

The Red Flannel Award recognizes scouts and scouters who are willing to camp outside in below freezing weather. Ideally this award could be earned by every member of a troop or patrol on a single cold weather campout although several less cold campouts could be combined to earn this award.

The Blue Flannel Award recognizes scouts and scouters who repeatedly camp outside in below freezing weather. This award is earned individually over multiple campouts, perhaps even more than one year.

These Awards are difficult to earn and should be worn with pride.

Requirements

All registered scouts and scouters in the Mason-Dixon Council are eligible to earn this award (each award may be earned only once). All camping must follow all BSA guidelines including two-deep leadership with youth protection training.

Red Flannel Award

1. Participants must read and understand the winter camping safety guidelines on the back of this sheet.
2. The unit leaders must be certain that all participants are properly trained for a cold weather experience. Campers should be inspected prior to departure with regard to clothing and equipment.
3. Participants must camp overnight in an unimproved shelter (any tent or temporary tarp shelters are acceptable, cabins are not) on a camping trip that lasts twenty-four (24) hours or longer.
4. Participants must accumulate twenty-five (**25**) Flannel Points to earn the Red Flannel Award. For each degree below 32°F the overnight low is, participants earn one (1) Flannel Point per night. If camping between Nov. 1 and March 1 an additional three (3) bonus Flannel Points are added each night regardless of temperature. For example, a January campout with low temperatures of 20 °F and 22 °F would earn 12 and 10 points plus 6 bonus points for a total of 28 Flannel Points. These points may be accumulated over more than one trip with no time limit. Please complete the tracking sheet for this requirement. However points only count on campouts meeting the requirements of #3 above.
5. Participants must prepare a menu and have it approved by their unit leader. They should help with the purchase of the food, preparation and cleanup. This may be done individually or by patrols.
6. Participate in some outside, scout appropriate patrol game (e.g. winter tug-o-war or snow golf).
7. Participants have a responsibility to their unit leader and fellow campers to be prepared for this type of experience including following the principles of Leave No Trace Camping. The principles of the Scout Oath, Law Motto and Slogan are an excellent guide to follow.

Blue Flannel Award

1. Earn the Red Flannel Award.
2. Accumulate seventy-five (75) Flannel Points on qualified campouts. These points can be accumulated over more than one campout or more than one year and all the points accumulated earning the Red Flannel Award count towards this total of 75.
3. A participant must be the head cook on at least two (2) meals prepared for others over an open fire (not propane or any sort of camp stove) on at least one camping trip where Flannel Points are earned.
4. Lead an outside, scout appropriate patrol game on at least one camping trip where Flannel Points are earned. (See Troop Program Resources for ideas if needed.)
5. Participants have a responsibility to their unit leader and fellow campers to be prepared for this type of experience including following the principles of Leave No Trace Camping. The principles of the Scout Oath, Law Motto and Slogan are an excellent guide to follow.

Winter Camping Safety

Quoted from BSA (<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/HealthandSafety/GSS/gss12.aspx>)

There is magic to camping in winter. It is one of the most challenging of outdoor adventures. The Boy Scouts of America operates the National Cold-Weather Camping Development Center at Northern Tier through the Okpik program. Visit www.ntier.org/BeforeYouArrive_OKPIK.html for comprehensive winter camping preparation information. Special considerations for winter camping are:

- 1. Qualified Supervision.** It is vital that a leader be an experienced winter camper with strong character and common sense.
- 2. Equipment.** Be completely outfitted for cold weather. Equipment should be checked to ensure good condition for the activity and proper maintenance while in use. Scouts should be adequately clothed, and blankets should be a suitable quality and weight.

TIP: Use alkaline batteries in flashlights, as standard batteries deteriorate quickly in cold weather.

TIP: Encourage youth to wear bright colors so they are more visible during severe weather.
- 3. Physical Fitness.** Scouts should be suitably fit for the activity. Periodic rests while building snow caves and engaging in other strenuous cold-weather activities will help prevent accidents and overheating.

TIP: Pulling a load over snow on a sled or toboggan is generally easier than carrying a backpack.
- 4. Buddy System.** Having Scouts paired aids in monitoring each other's physical condition and observation of surroundings and circumstances.
- 5. Planning.** Safe activities follow a plan that has been conscientiously developed. In winter, plan to cover no more than 5 miles per day on snowshoes or 10 to 12 miles on cross-country skis. Allow ample time to make it to camp at the end of the day.

TIP: Always bring a bit more food, water, and clothing than what you think you'll need.
- 6. Safe Area.** Leaders should determine whether an area for winter camping is well-suited and free of hazards.

TIP: Always test the thickness of ice before venturing any distance from shore. The ice should be at least 3 inches thick for a small group.

TIP: Look for dead branches hanging in the trees overhead.

TIP: Avoid ridge tops and open areas where wind can blow down tents or create drifts.
- 7. Weather Check.** Weather conditions, potential hazards, and the appropriate responses should be understood and anticipated. Go to www.scouting.org/training for Hazardous Weather training.
- 8. Burning.** Never use flames in tents, teepees, or snow shelters. This includes burning any solid, liquid, gel, or gas fuel; using features of tents or teepees that support stoves or fires; and use of chemical-fueled equipment and catalytic heaters.
- 9. Discipline.** Rules are effective only when followed. All participants should know, understand, and respect the rules and procedures for a safe winter camping experience. Applicable rules should be discussed prior to the outing and reviewed for all participants when leaving for the winter campout.

Blue Flannel Award Individual Tracking Sheet

Name _____ Unit Number _____

Camp Location: _____ Dates: _____

Number of nights	Overnight Lows	Number of Flannel Points earned	Number of meals cooked over fire	Games Lead	Initials of Adult Leader on Campout

Camp Location: _____ Dates: _____

Number of nights	Overnight Lows	Number of Flannel Points earned	Number of meals cooked over fire	Games Lead	Initials of Adult Leader on Campout

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Total Number of Flannel Points Earned: _____

I certify that the individual listed above satisfied all four (4) requirements for the Blue Flannel Award:

(Unit Leader)

(Date)