

Here's a brief outline of how Troops 860B/G allow Scouts to plan family outings to potentially count for advancement:

We have outlined a plan for Troop 860 to enable **individual/family outings (hiking, backpacking, and camping) be used for advancement** while we are still under COVID-19 restrictions. We feel this is an important option to both encourage camping as much as possible, while also enabling our scouts to keep on track for advancement. Given how very different it can be to camp as a family versus as a Troop, **scouts will submit a request, prior to the outing**, with a plan for their upcoming campout, to their Scoutmaster. This will ensure the scouts think of the outing in terms of them (vs their parents) planning and preparing for the trip.

The request should include:

1. The Camping Trip Plan (pg. 263 of handbook that outlines the "Where, When, Who, Why, What, and How" of the trip)
2. The requirements they plan to complete on the campout (e.g., Tenderfoot 1a, 1b, & 1c or First Class 1b, etc.)

The Scoutmasters will review and approve the campout requests. **These requests must be submitted to the Scoutmaster prior to the campout.**

Upon completion of the trip, the scouts will then be asked to present a simple report of the trip to the Scoutmaster & Troop or Patrol. This can be a simple format – maybe a PowerPoint slide (or two) with short, bullet point recaps that include:

1. Picture(s) from the campout/outing
2. Summary of the trip & activities (cooking, hiking, kayaking, biking, etc.) through a short write-up (thorns & roses?) and details of which requirements were met and how. Documentation (hiking trail/topo maps) or show & tell items (demonstrating their knots, a native plant picture collage, etc.) could also be presented. Scouts are encouraged to report back on the gear they packed/used (checklists found on pg. 268-269) and any challenges or successes they had with the trip overall.

This approach follows the model of Plan, Prepare, Execute, Report which is used for most scout outings and projects. Questions may be directed to the Scoutmaster.