



# Base Camp Camping Initiative

*Evaluation Results 2014-2015*

**J U L Y 2 0 1 5**

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# Contents

Base Camp Camping Initiative .....	1
Introduction.....	1
Discovery Day Camp.....	2
Scouting skills.....	3
Games and activities .....	4
Camp experience.....	5
Explorers Outpost .....	7
Scouting skills.....	8
Challenge of camp activities.....	10
Camp experience.....	11
Residential camp.....	13
Scouting and outdoor skills.....	14
Games and activities .....	15
Challenge of camp activities.....	16
Camp experience.....	16
Issues to consider .....	19

# Base Camp Camping Initiative

## Introduction

The Northern Star Council of the Boy Scouts of America operates Base Camp at Fort Snelling, Minnesota. The facility offers indoor and outdoor year-round opportunities in an environment where scouts can engage in team building, rock climbing, ropes courses, and archery. In an effort to reach underserved youth, the Council sought and was awarded a grant from the Margaret A. Cargill Foundation to support the Base Camp Camping Initiative, which provides opportunities for Cub Scout, Boy Scout, and Venture Scout groups with limited resources for camp experiences. The Camping Initiative includes a one day Discovery Day Camp at Base Camp; Explorers Outpost, a two night camp at Fort Snelling State Park; and a three to seven day overnight camp experience at one of the Council's camps.

This evaluation includes data from camps that occurred in between March 2014 and May 2015. During this time, 23 Discovery Day Camps, 10 Explorers Outposts, and one week-long residential camp were offered. These events offered camping experiences to 654 youth and 273 adults. The scout groups came from traditional districts including Great Rivers, Metro Lakes, North Star, Eagle River, and Chief Black Dog, and districts focused on location or culture including Silver Maple (Hmong), El Sol (Hispanic), Huron (after school in Saint Paul Public Schools), and Zulu (African American).

At the end of each camp session, scouts in third grade or older were asked to complete a short survey about their experience. The surveys were submitted to Wilder Research by camp staff along with counts of scouts and adult participants.

This report presents all the survey data collected from the scouts at residential camp, Discovery Day Camps and Explorers Outposts. Data from Discovery Day Camps and Explorers Outposts are also reported separately for those offered before and since June 2014. This allows for a comparison of the data in relation to the recommendations offered in the June 2014 report. Boy Scout staff were also asked to comment on changes in the data. Issues to consider are offered at the end of the report.

# Discovery Day Camp

For many scouts, Discovery Day Camp is their first introduction to scout camp. The day is filled with activities designed to build awareness and interest in scouting, camping, and the outdoor environment.

During the initiative, 309 scouts and 149 adults attended Discovery Day Camp in 23 groups. Of the 179 scouts who completed a survey and noted their grade level, 61 percent were in grades 3, 4, or 5. The percentage of older scouts increased in the second year of programming including a few older than high school who were Venture Scouts (Figures 1-2).

## 1. Discovery Day Camp: Participation

	Camps offered	Youth attending	Adults attending	Youth too young to complete survey	Completed surveys <sup>a</sup>
Prior to June 2014	4	46	23	18	29
June 2014-May 2015	19	263	126	75	173
All participants	23	309	149	93	202

<sup>a</sup> The number of completed surveys is the surveys that were received by Wilder Research, processed, and used for analysis. The number of youth attending and youth too young to complete survey were provided by program staff. There are some discrepancies in the counts.

## 2. Discovery Day Camp: Grade in school

What grade are you in?	Prior to June 2014		June 2014-May 2015		All participants	
	N=26	%	N= 153	%	N= 179	%
3	7	27%	32	21%	39	22%
4	8	31%	34	22%	42	24%
5	5	19%	21	14%	26	15%
6	3	12%	10	7%	13	7%
7	0	0%	19	12%	19	11%
8	2	8%	1	1%	3	2%
9	1	4%	7	5%	8	5%
10	0	0%	12	8%	12	7%
11	0	0%	7	5%	7	4%
12	0	0%	7	5%	7	4%
Older than high school	0	0%	3	2%	3	2%

## Scouting skills

At camp, scouts learned a variety of camping skills. Over 90 percent of the scouts said they learned “a lot” or “a little” about building a campfire (95%), packing the gear needed to go camping (95%), setting up a campsite (94%), and packing up a campsite (92%). Eighty-five percent also said they learned “a lot” or “a little” about tying knots. Scouts were less likely to say they learned “a lot” (45%) or “a little” (23%) about tying poles together to build a structure. The remaining scouts said they learned “nothing” about this skill.

In addition to camping skills, scouts were asked how much they learned about being a good citizen. Eighty-eight percent said they learned “a lot” (64%) and or “a little” (24%). This represents an increase from 75 percent for scouts participating prior to June 2014 which may reflect some program changes described by staff. In the past year, the program emphasized principles of protecting nature and being a good citizen by being a steward of natural resources (Figure 3).

### 3. Discovery Day Camp: Scouting skills

While at camp today, how much did you learn about . . .		N	A lot	A little	Nothing
How scouts can be good citizens?	Before 6/14	28	46%	29%	25%
	6/14 to 5/15	170	67%	24%	9%
	All participants	198	64%	24%	12%
Building a safe campfire?	Before 6/14	22	77%	23%	0%
	6/14 to 5/15	172	80%	15%	6%
	All participants	194	79%	16%	5%
The stuff you need to go camping?	Before 6/14	29	55%	38%	7%
	6/14 to 5/15	170	65%	30%	5%
	All participants	199	64%	31%	5%
Setting up a campsite?	Before 6/14	28	54%	43%	4%
	6/14 to 5/15	169	75%	19%	6%
	All participants	197	72%	22%	6%
Packing up a campsite?	Before 6/14	29	66%	31%	3%
	6/14 to 5/15	171	66%	26%	8%
	All participants	200	66%	27%	8%
Tying knots?	Before 6/14	29	59%	38%	3%
	6/14 to 5/15	160	58%	25%	18%
	All participants	189	58%	27%	15%
Tying poles together to make a structure?	Before 6/14	22	36%	23%	41%
	6/14 to 5/15	162	46%	23%	31%
	All participants	184	45%	23%	32%

## Games and activities

Almost all of the scouts said they were challenged “a lot” (70%) or “a little” (28%) when they tried new activities like rock climbing and archery. In addition, 91 percent agreed “a lot” (75%) or “a little” (17%) that rock climbing and archery made them feel like they had accomplished something new.

Overall, 90 percent of scouts agreed “a lot” (65%) or “a little” (25%) that camp had helped them think about ways to take care of nature. The percentage of scouts who agreed “a lot” increased from 48 percent before June 2014 to 68 percent since June 2014. As described above, this may reflect a shift in program focus to emphasize ways of protecting nature (Figure 4).

### 4. Discovery Day Camp: Games and activities

How much do you agree with the following . . .		N	A lot	A little	Do not agree
I was challenged when I tried activities like rock climbing and archery.	Before 6/14	29	72%	28%	0%
	6/14 to 5/15	171	69%	28%	3%
	All participants	200	70%	28%	3%
Rock climbing and archery make me feel like I had accomplished something new.	Before 6/14	29	86%	10%	3%
	6/14 to 5/15	169	74%	17%	10%
	All participants	198	75%	16%	9%
Camp helped me think about ways to take care of nature.	Before 6/14	29	48%	38%	14%
	6/14 to 5/15	170	68%	22%	9%
	All participants	199	65%	25%	10%

## Camp experience

The scouts had strong positive feelings about their experience at camp. Eighty-seven percent described their Base Camp guide as an awesome guide who made the day fun and 90 percent said they enjoyed camp “a lot.” Sixty-eight percent said they would tell a friend to come to camp, and 24 percent said they might tell a friend to come to camp. Scouts attending in the second year provided slightly lower satisfaction ratings (Figures 5-6).

### 5. Discovery Day Camp: Camp guide

How would you describe your Base Camp guide?	Prior to June 2014		June 2014-May 2015		All participants	
	N=29	%	N= 165	%	N=194	%
The guide was awesome. They made the day fun.	27	93%	141	86%	168	87%
The guide was okay, but could have been better.	2	7%	21	13%	23	12%
The guide wasn't that good. I would have liked a different guide.	0	0%	3	2%	3	2%

### 6. Discovery Day Camp: Camp experience

		N	A lot	A little	Not much
		Overall, how much did you enjoy camp?	Before 6/14	29	97%
	6/14 to 5/15	171	89%	10%	1%
	All participants	200	90%	9%	1%
		N	Yes	Maybe	No
Would you tell a friend to come to camp?	Before 6/14	29	72%	24%	3%
	6/14 to 5/15	171	67%	29%	4%
	All participants	200	68%	28%	4%

When they were asked about the best part of Base Camp, scouts were most likely to say rock climbing or archery (47% each). They also enjoyed playing GaGa ball (10%), making S'mores (6%), and building fires (5%) (Figure 6).

## 7. Discover Day Camp: Best part of Base Camp

The number and percentage of scouts whose written answers were coded into this category

	Prior to June 2014		June 2014-May 2015		All participants	
	N=28	%	N=165	%	N=193	%
Rock climbing/Wall climbing	16	57%	74	45%	90	47%
Archery	9	32%	81	49%	90	47%
Playing GaGa ball	1	4%	19	12%	20	10%
Making and eating S'mores	7	25%	5	3%	12	6%
Building fires	1	4%	9	6%	10	5%
Being challenged	0	0%	7	4%	7	4%
The staff	0	0%	5	3%	5	3%
Setting up tents	2	7%	2	1%	4	2%
Cooking and eating	0	0%	4	2%	4	2%
Playing basketball	0	0%	4	2%	4	2%
Playing games	2	7%	1	1%	3	2%
Knot tying	0	0%	3	2%	3	2%
Enjoying the campfire (not building)	0	0%	2	1%	2	1%
Playing football	0	0%	2	1%	2	1%
Being/working with friends	0	0%	2	1%	2	1%
Shooting BB Guns	0	0%	1	1%	1	<1%
Relaxing or hanging out with friends	0	0%	1	1%	1	<1%
<b>Unspecified responses</b>						
Everything	2	7%	8	5%	10	5%
Having new experiences (undefined)	2	7%	3	2%	5	3%
Activities (undefined)	0	0%	8	5%	8	4%
Lessons	1	4%	0	0%	1	<1%
Other	0	0%	3	2%	3	2%

Open-ended comments were coded into similar categories.

Scouts could provide multiple responses.



# Explorers Outpost

Explorers Outpost is a two-night camping experience usually held at Fort Snelling State Park for Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Venture Scouts. Most of the scouts were in grades 1 through 12, but a few Venture Scouts were older than high school. For most scouts, this event is their first time camping. During the initiative, 199 scouts and 69 adults attended Explorers Outpost in 10 groups.

Of the 115 scouts who completed a survey and noted their grade level, 51 percent were in grades 3, 4, or 5; 24 percent were in grades 6, 7, or 8; and 25 percent were in high school or older (Figures 8-9).

## 8. Explorers Outpost: Participation

	Camps offered	Youth attending	Adults attending	Youth too young to complete survey	Completed surveys <sup>a</sup>
Prior to June 2014	2	20	2	3	17
June 2014-May 2015	8	179	67	52	98
All participants	10	199	69	55	115

<sup>a</sup> The number of completed surveys is the surveys that were received by Wilder Research, processed, and used for analysis. The number of youth attending and youth too young to complete survey were provided by program staff. There are some discrepancies in the counts.

## 9. Explorers Outpost: Grade in school

What grade are you in?	Prior to June 2014		June 2014-May 2015		All participants	
	N=17	%	N= 97	%	N= 114	%
3	1	6%	12	12%	13	11%
4	3	18%	20	21%	23	20%
5	1	6%	22	23%	23	20%
6	0	0%	12	12%	12	11%
7	1	6%	10	10%	11	10%
8	0	0%	3	3%	3	3%
9	2	12%	7	7%	9	8%
10	1	6%	2	2%	3	2%
11	8	47%	7	7%	15	13%
12	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Older than high school	0	0%	2	2%	2	2%

## Scouting skills

Ninety-five percent of the Explorers Outpost scouts said they learned “a lot” (55%) or “a little” (40%) about how scouts can be good citizens. They also learned a variety of camping skills. Most of the scouts said they learned “a lot” or “a little” about using a compass and map to hike to their campsite (98%), the qualities of a good campsite (93%), and the best way to set up a tent (87%). Fewer scouts said they learned “a lot” or “a little” about cooking a meal over a campfire (77%). Similar to the results reported in June 2014, learning to use a saw, ax, or hatchet safely (28%) was the lowest rated skill.

In regards to nature, over ninety percent of the scouts said they learned “a lot” or “a little” about nature and animals in the park (93%), how to help take care of nature (95%), and how to leave no trace when camping (96%). Leave No Trace is taught by the Boy Scouts as a way to encourage stewardship of the natural environment. At most Explorers Outposts, the scouts complete a Leave No Trace activity or service project. When asked to further describe what they learned from their Leave No Trace project, scouts most frequently said they learned to pack in what they need and take out all their trash (32%). Other frequent responses were to use the No Trace principles (25%), leave all nature intact for others to enjoy (20%), pick up trash (16%), make the environment better and respect nature (12%) (Figures 10-11).

### 10. Explorers Outpost: Scouting skills

While at camp today, how much did you learn about . . .		N	A lot	A little	Nothing
How scouts can be good citizens?	Before 6/14	17	59%	35%	6%
	6/14 to 5/15	95	54%	40%	6%
	All participants	112	55%	40%	6%
How to use a compass and map to hike to your campsite?	Before 6/14	17	47%	53%	0%
	6/14 to 5/15	96	53%	45%	2%
	All participants	113	52%	46%	2%
The qualities of a good campsite?	Before 6/14	17	77%	24%	0%
	6/14 to 5/15	95	60%	32%	8%
	All participants	112	63%	30%	7%
The best ways to set up a tent?	Before 6/14	17	53%	41%	6%
	6/14 to 5/15	96	50%	37%	14%
	All participants	113	50%	37%	12%
How to use a saw, ax, or hatchet safely?	Before 6/14	17	6%	18%	77%
	6/14 to 5/15	50	18%	12%	70%
	All participants	67	15%	13%	72%

## 10. Explorers Outpost: Scouting skills (continued)

While at camp today, how much did you learn about . . .		N	A lot	A little	Nothing
How to cook a meal over a fire?	Before 6/14	17	24%	53%	24%
	6/14 to 5/15	95	43%	34%	23%
	All participants	112	40%	37%	23%
The nature and animals in the park?	Before 6/14	17	35%	59%	6%
	6/14 to 5/15	96	53%	40%	7%
	All participants	113	50%	43%	7%
How you can help take care of nature?	Before 6/14	17	77%	18%	6%
	6/14 to 5/15	95	71%	25%	4%
	All participants	112	71%	24%	5%
How to leave no trace when you camp?	Before 6/14	17	88%	6%	6%
	6/14 to 5/15	98	80%	16%	4%
	All participants	115	81%	15%	4%

## 11. Explorers Outpost: What did you learn from your Leave No Trace project?

The number and percentage of scouts whose written answers were coded into this category

	Prior to June 2014		June 2014- May 2015		All participants	
	N=16	%	N=59	%	N=75	%
Pack in/Pack out	6	38%	18	31%	24	32%
No Trace principles	3	19%	16	27%	19	25%
Leave nature behind	4	25%	11	19%	15	20%
Pick up trash	3	19%	9	15%	12	16%
Make a better environment/ respect nature	0	0%	9	15%	9	12%
Safely make a fire/use good fireplace	2	13%	3	5%	5	7%
Other	0	0%	3	5%	3	4%
Noise level	1	6%	1	2%	2	3%
Care of wilderness	0	0%	2	3%	2	3%
Dispersing dirty water across a large area	1	6%	0	0%	1	1%

Open-ended comments were coded into similar categories.

Scouts could provide multiple responses.

## 11. Explorers Outpost: What did you learn from your Leave No Trace project? (continued)

The number and percentage of scouts whose written answers were coded into this category

	Prior to June 2014		June 2014-May 2015		All participants	
	N=16	%	N=59	%	N=75	%
Be aware of surroundings/take care of self	1	6%	0	0%	1	1%
Everything helps	1	6%	0	0%	1	1%
New things	1	6%	0	0%	1	1%
Planning ahead	0	0%	1	2%	1	1%

Open-ended comments were coded into similar categories.

Scouts could provide multiple responses.

## Challenge of camp activities

Most scouts felt the camp activities challenged them and helped them accomplish something new. Eighty-seven percent said they were challenged “a lot” (34%) or “a little” (53%) by the activities they tried at camp. Ninety-two percent said the activities made them feel like they had accomplished something new “a lot” (46%) or “a little” (46%). Almost all of the scouts said they will use the skills they learned at camp in the future “a lot” (62%) and or “a little” (34%).

Since June 2014, the percentage of scouts who responded “a lot” to these questions increased which may reflect the shift in programming to attract newly formed scout groups. Camp staff said the attending scouts, who had limited previous scouting experience, may have been more challenged than scouts that had previous experience (Figure 12).

## 12. Explorers Outpost: Scouts’ reactions to activities

While at camp . . .		N	A lot	A little	Nothing
How challenged were you by the activities you tried at camp?	Before 6/14	16	19%	75%	6%
	6/14 to 5/15	93	37%	50%	14%
	All participants	109	34%	53%	13%
How much did these activities make you feel like you had accomplished something new?	Before 6/14	16	31%	56%	13%
	6/14 to 5/15	94	48%	45%	7%
	All participants	110	46%	46%	8%
How much do you think you will use the skills you learned in the future?	Before 6/14	17	53%	41%	6%
	6/14 to 5/15	92	64%	33%	3%
	All participants	109	62%	34%	4%

## Camp experience

Overall, the scouts attending Explorers Outpost were satisfied with the experience. Sixty-four percent described their Base Camp guide as an awesome guide who made the day fun and 32 percent said the guide was okay, but could have been better. Seventy-four percent said they enjoyed camp “a lot” and 24 percent said they enjoyed it “a little.” Fifty-eight percent said they would tell a friend to come to camp, and 38 percent said they might tell a friend to come to camp.

In the surveys collected since June 2014), scouts expressed greater satisfaction with the camp experience and camp staff. Camp staff said they made efforts to engage new, enthusiastic staff that had better training and preparation to work with the scouts in the last year of the initiative. This may have affected the ratings (Figures 13-14).

### 13. Explorers Outpost: Camp guide

How would you describe your Camp guide?	Prior to June 2014		June 2014-May 2015		All participants	
	N=16	%	N=92	%	N=108	%
The guide was awesome. They made the day fun.	7	44%	62	67%	69	64%
The guide was okay, but could have been better.	8	50%	26	28%	34	32%
The guide wasn't that good. I would have liked a different guide.	1	6%	4	4%	5	5%

### 14. Explorers Outpost: Camp experience

		N	A lot	A little	Nothing
		Overall, how much did you enjoy camp?	Before 6/14	17	41%
	6/14 to 5/15	94	80%	19%	1%
	All participants	111	74%	24%	2%
		N	Yes	Maybe	No
Would you tell a friend to come to camp?	Before 6/14	17	53%	41%	6%
	6/14 to 5/15	95	59%	37%	4%
	All participants	112	58%	38%	5%

When scouts were asked about the best part of Explorers Outpost, they were most likely to comment on the activities such as rock climbing (15%), archery (12%), and GaGa ball (11%). Other frequent responses included cooking and eating (10%) especially S'mores (12%) (Figure 15).

## 15. Explorers Outpost: Best part of camp

The number and percentage of scouts whose written answers were coded into this category

	Prior to June 2014		June 2014-May 2015		All participants	
	N=16	%	N=93	%	N=109	%
Rock climbing/Wall climbing	0	0%	16	17%	16	15%
Making and eating S'mores	4	25%	9	10%	13	12%
Archery	0	0%	13	14%	13	12%
Playing GaGa ball	0	0%	12	13%	12	11%
Cooking and eating	4	25%	7	8%	11	10%
Playing games	4	25%	6	7%	10	9%
Camping	1	6%	8	9%	9	8%
Hiking	0	0%	9	10%	9	8%
Working together with friends	3	19%	4	4%	7	6%
Enjoying nature	1	6%	5	5%	6	6%
Setting up tents	0	0%	6	7%	6	6%
Riding bicycles/velocipedes	0	0%	5	5%	5	5%
Hanging out with friends	1	6%	2	2%	3	3%
Playing basketball	0	0%	3	3%	3	3%
Fishing	0	0%	3	3%	3	3%
Building fires	1	6%	1	1%	2	2%
Playing football	0	0%	2	2%	2	2%
Enjoying the campfire	1	6%	0	0%	1	1%
Going to the beach	1	6%	0	0%	1	1%
Meeting new people	1	6%	0	0%	1	1%
Playing Oh Deer game	1	6%	0	0%	1	1%
Operating the space simulator	0	0%	1	1%	1	1%
Orienteering	0	0%	1	1%	1	1%
<b>Unspecified responses</b>						
Everything	0	0%	5	5%	5	5%
Activities (undefined)	0	0%	3	3%	3	3%
Other	0	0%	3	3%	3	3%
Having new experiences (undefined)	0	0%	1	1%	1	1%

*Open-ended comments were coded into similar categories.*

*Scouts could provide multiple responses.*

# Residential camp

Residential camp is a weeklong camp that took place at Stearns Scout Camp in South Haven, MN in June 2014. One hundred and forty-six scouts and 55 adults attended camp. Of the scouts, 42 completed surveys. Other scouts were either too young to complete the survey or were not asked to complete the survey. Seventy-four percent of the scouts who completed surveys were in grades 3, 4, or 5. Of the 41 scouts who responded to the question, 29 scouts had previously attended either or both Discovery Day Camp (29) or Explorers Outpost (12) (Figures 16-17).

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## 16. Residential camp: Previous camp experience

Before this multi-day camp, did you	Respondents responding "yes" (N=41)	
	N	%
Go to Base Camp for a day?	27	66%
Camp overnight at Fort Snelling?	12	29%

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## 17. Residential camp: Grade in school

What grade are you in?	Prior to June 2014 (N=36)	
	N	%
3	12	33%
4	7	19%
5	8	22%
6	2	6%
7	2	6%
8	2	6%
9	0	0%
10	3	8%

**Note:** Six scouts did not identify a grade.

## Scouting and outdoor skills

Ninety-eight percent of the scouts said they learned “a lot” (60%) or “a little” (38%) about how to be good citizens and 95 percent learned “a lot” (76%) or “a little” (20%) about new camping skills. Seventy-six percent of the 29 scouts who had previously attended Discovery Day Camp or Explorers Outpost said they used the skills they learned at those camps while at Residential Camp (Figure 18).

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### 18. Residential Camp: Scouting skills

<b>While at camp today, how much did you . .</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>A lot</b>	<b>A little</b>	<b>Nothing</b>
Practice how scouts can be good citizens?	42	60%	38%	2%
Learn new camping skills?	41	76%	20%	5%
Use skills you learned at Base Camp or at the Fort Snelling overnight?	29	41%	35%	24%

In regards to nature, 98 percent said they learned “a lot” (38%) or “a little” (60%) about nature and animals and 95 percent learned “a lot” (74%) or a little (21%) about how to take care of nature. Eighty-six percent learned about leaving no trace when camping. Leave No Trace is taught by the Boy Scouts as a way to encourage stewardship of the natural environment (Figure 19).

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### 19. Residential Camp: Outdoor skills

<b>While at camp, how much did you . .</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>A lot</b>	<b>A little</b>	<b>Nothing</b>
The nature and animals at camp?	42	38%	60%	2%
How you can help take care of nature?	42	74%	21%	5%
How to leave no trace when you camp?	42	60%	26%	14%



## Games and activities

Scouts had the opportunity to try new activities at camp. Three-quarters said they tried “a lot of new activities” while at camp and 21 percent said they tried “some new activities.” In response to what their favorite new activity was, 40 percent of Residential scouts reported they enjoyed the pedal cars or karts, 29 percent said their favorite new activity was archery, and about 24 percent said they liked BB guns (Figures 20-21).

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### 20. Residential Camp: New activities

<b>While at camp, did you try new activities?</b>	<b>Respondents responding “yes”</b>	
	<b>N=42</b>	<b>%</b>
Yes, a lot of new activities	32	76%
Yes, some new activities	9	21%
Not really	1	2%

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### 21. Residential Camp: Favorite new activity

<b>What was your favorite new activity you tried?</b>	<b>The number and percentage of scouts whose written answers were coded into this category</b>	
	<b>N=38</b>	<b>%</b>
Pedal cars or karts	15	40%
Archery	11	29%
BB guns	9	24%
Everything	3	8%
Slip-n-slide	3	8%
Sling shots	2	5%
Bicycles	1	3%
Crafts	1	3%
Enjoying nature	1	3%

*Open-ended comments were coded into similar categories.  
Scouts could provide multiple responses.*

## Challenge of camp activities

Overall, scouts felt the camp activities made them feel like they accomplished something new and the activities were challenging. All of the Residential scouts reported the activities made them feel like they accomplished something new “a lot” (81%) or “a little” (20%) and 92 percent said they were challenged “a lot” (46%) or “a little” (46%). All of the scouts said they will use the skills in the future (Figure 22).

### 22. Residential Camp: Scouts’ reactions to activities

	N	A lot	A little	Nothing
How challenged were you by the activities you tried at camp?	41	46%	46%	7%
How much did these activities make you feel like you had accomplished something new?	41	81%	20%	0%
How much do you think you will use the skills you learned in the future?	40	73%	78%	0%

## Camp experience

Overall, scouts reported a positive camp experience. When asked to describe their Residential Camp Guide, 78 percent of scouts said their camp guide was awesome and made the day fun, and 22 percent said their guide was okay, but could have been better. Almost all (93%) of scouts reported that they enjoyed camp, and 68 percent said they would like to return and would tell a friend to come to camp (Figures 23-24).

### 23. Residential Camp: Camp guide

How would you describe your Camp guide?	N=36	Percent
The guide was awesome. They made the day fun.	28	78%
The guide was okay, but could have been better.	8	22%
The guide wasn't that good. I would have liked a different guide.	0	0%

### 24. Residential Camp: Camp experience

	N	A lot	A little	Nothing
Overall, how much did you enjoy camp?	40	93%	8%	0%
	N	Yes	Maybe	No
Would you like to return to camp?	40	68%	33%	0%
Would you tell a friend to come to camp?	40	68%	33%	0%

Scouts gave many different examples of the best part of the camp. Their favorites were BB guns (24%), pedal cars or karts (17%), archery (15%), and the slip-n-slide (12%) (Figure 25).

## 25. Residential Camp: Best part of camp

	The number and percentage of scouts whose written answers were coded into this category	
	N=41	%
Shooting BB guns	10	24%
Riding pedal cars or karts	7	17%
Archery	6	15%
Playing on the slip-n-slide	5	12%
Everything	4	10%
Enjoying the campfire (not building)	4	10%
Participating in activities (undefined)	3	7%
Camping or sleeping in a tent	3	7%
Being with friends	2	5%
Learning new things or having new experiences	1	2%
Cooking and eating	1	2%
Fire building	1	2%
Making and eating S'mores	1	2%
Shooting sling shots	1	2%
Orienteering	1	2%
Riding bicycles	1	2%
Staying up to see the stars	1	2%
Enjoying nature	1	2%
The staff	1	2%

*Open-ended comments were coded into similar categories.*

*Scouts could provide multiple responses.*

Scouts were also given the opportunity to share what they would change about camp. A third of the scouts (31%) said they would change nothing. The most frequent changes suggested referred generally to the bathroom facilities (14%) and specifically to labeling the bathrooms (8%) and cleaning bathrooms (3%). They also requested sleeping in cabins rather than tents, a location with less bugs, and a pool. Most of the remaining responses mentioned specific activities, but the scouts were not very verbose and neglected to mention whether they wanted more or less of the activities (Figure 26).

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## 26. Residential Camp: Suggestions for changing camp

The number and percentage of scouts whose written answers were coded into this category

	N=36	%
Nothing	11	31%
Bathrooms	5	14%
Label bathrooms and separate bathrooms	3	8%
More activities	3	8%
Archery	2	6%
Sleep in cabins (rather than tents)	2	6%
Food	2	6%
Scouts were bored	1	3%
Clean bathrooms	1	3%
More time for activities	1	3%
Sling shots	1	3%
Jogging	1	3%
Walking	1	3%
Swimming	1	3%
Pool	1	3%
Location – somewhere with less bugs	1	3%
Bugs	1	3%

*Open-ended comments were coded into similar categories.*

*Scouts could provide multiple responses.*

# Issues to consider

The overall evaluation results indicate that scouts enjoyed the camp experiences, learned new concepts and activities, and would tell a friend to come to camp. The initiative is also reaching a group of diverse scouts who may not have many opportunities to camp. The following recommendations are offered to help the initiative continue offering quality opportunities for scouts.

- Scouts reported less knowledge of some tasks such as tying knots and lashing poles at Discovery Day Camps, and setting up a tent, and using a saw, ax, or hatchet safely at Explorers Outpost. Consider options for strengthening these program elements.
- The ratings for the guides at Explorers Outpost increased in the second year of the evaluation, but the percentage of scouts who considered the staff to be “awesome” remains lower than at the other two camps. Continue working with staff to ensure a positive experience for these scouts.
- Discuss the list of suggestions made by Residential Camp scouts to see if there are any changes that can be made to the camp experience or if there are different ways of framing what scouts can expect at camp.
- Develop ways to emphasize the Leave No Trace principles for Residential Camp scouts.
- Consider adding a method for collecting information from adults attending camp with the scouts.
- Develop protocols so surveys are administered to all eligible scouts at all camps. The small percentage of scouts who completed surveys for the Residential Camp limit how much the findings can be applied to all scouts.