Changes to NCAP starting January 1, 2020

The National Camp Accreditation Program (NCAP) will undergo several changes for the 2020 season. Every year there are changes to some of the NCAP Standards, but in 2020 a few other changes will affect councils and their camps and programs.

2020 NCAP changes include:

- Reclassifying of camp types (see new classifications below)
- All “Intent to Operate” submissions for Area-led assessments will be sent to Area Directors for approval and verification. *Long-term camps (formerly resident camps) are area-assessed.*
- All “Intent to Operate” submissions for council self-assessed camps and properties are sent to Scout Executives for approval. *Properties, day camps and family camps are council self-assessed.*
- Connecting “Intent to Operate” submissions with NCAP scoresheets with their registration code. This registration code is sent via email when the Intent to Operate is submitted and must be indicated on the NCAP scoresheet.

**New NCAP Camp Classifications**

The second cycle of NCAP authorizations provides an opportunity to streamline the process by reducing and consolidating the number of camp type classifications. These adjustments will increase quality program and the health and safety of all campers while enhancing brand of the Boy Scouts of America. The new classifications are:

1. **Camp Property:** A camp property includes any and all properties which a BSA council exercises long-term control that is made available to BSA units or individuals for use in BSA-branded program activities. A BSA camp property does not include the following:
   - Property held for use, investment or sale which is not made available to BSA units or youth for use in BSA program activities;
   - Service Centers and Scout shops where activities of a primarily office or sales nature occurs, except that Scout shops located in conjunction with a BSA camp (e.g., a camp trading post) are covered by the Standards. Service Centers and Scout shops that are operated year-round independently of a camp facility are not covered by the Standards.

2. **Day Camp:** A day camp is a council-organized program designed for Scouts for two or more days, under council-retained leadership, at an approved site with no overnight. The program may operate at the Tiger Scout, Cub Scout, Webelos Scout, Scouts BSA, Venturer, or Sea Scout level.

3. **Family Camp:** A family camp is a one time, council-approved one or two night camp at an approved site for Tiger Scouts, Cub Scouts and/or Webelos Scouts, Scouts BSA, Venturers and Sea Scouts and their families and that involve more than one unit where the council, or its agents, provides the staffing and may provide program and food service.
4. **Long-Term Camp (formerly resident camp):** A council-organized camp that is three nights or more that operates under council-retained leadership and can include static campsites, transient camp sites, high adventure or trekking programs or some combination thereof. These programs may operate at the Tiger Scout, Cub Scout, Webelos Scout, Scouts BSA, or Venturer level; but, Cub Scout, Scouts BSA and Venturing programs cannot be combined into a single camp experience.

Regardless of which classification a camp(s) falls under, all program standards apply to the programs they offer including aquatics, shooting sports, COPE, Trek etc. For example, if a camp hosts a COPE program at their facility but no overnight camping takes place, they would follow the applicable properties standards and the COPE standards. Or for example, if they offer overnight trekking programs, the camp would follow the long-term camp standards and the trek standards.

**New Intent to Operate Approval Process**

All camps are required, per NCAP Standard AO 802, to complete an Intent to Operate for all camps that they operate. The Intent to Operate application is submitted electronically and must be completed in November of the prior year to operation.

**Long Term Camps:** The 2020 Long-Term Camp Intent to Operate submissions will now require area director approval. Once the council submits their document online, an email will be sent to the Area Director for approval. When approved, the council will be notified and the Intent to Operate will be filed. If not approved, the council will be notified by the online system.

**Property, Day Camps and Family Camps:** Starting in 2020, all Intent to Operates for camps and properties that are council self-assessed will be sent to the council Scout Executive for approval.

**New Intent to Operate Registration Code**

To ensure consistency between information collected on the Intent to Operate application and the NCAP assessment score sheets, the NCAP assessment score sheets will now require area and council assessors to record the Intent to Operate Registration Code.

Thank you for your continued support of the National Camp Accreditation Program and the positive impact it has on our local councils and camping operations. If you have any questions or need for support, please contact us at ncap@scouting.org or 972-580-2288.
2020 National Camp Accreditation Program Classification Changes

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Why are you changing the classifications?
To streamline standard applicability.

2. What are the changes in classifications?
Beginning January 1, 2020 only four camp classification options will remain: Camp Property, Day Camp, Family Camp, Long-Term Camp.

3. How does the Camp Properties classification apply?
All properties a council owns, leases, licenses, or has a permit to operate (except a council office that does not host any camping programs) must complete a yearly assessment. The assessment is facilitated by the council as a self-assessment. This is not a change.

4. You mean we must complete an assessment on all properties?
Yes.

5. Why change the name to from resident camp to Long-Term Camp?
The long-term camp classification refers to both the overnight component and the length of the camp. The time component (three nights or more) distinguishes it from the family camp. This definition also falls in line with the other classifications.

   Day camp – No overnight component
   Family Camp – One or two nights
   Long term camp – Three or more nights

In the context of NCAP, the term long-term refers only to the indication the program is run overnight for more three or more nights thereby requiring an area assessment. *There is no adjustment to the programmatic use of the term “resident” or “long term” camp from an advancement, internal camp description, Order of the Arrow eligibility, Journey to Excellence, Annual Camping Report or other uses.*

6. What about Trek or high adventure camps that travel to different campsites?
Regardless of camping location(s), all program standards apply. Aquatics programs must meet the aquatics standards, trekking programs must meet the trekking standards, etc. Trek standards have moved into the Program Specific standards section of the 2020 NCAP standards publication.