



INTERIM PROGRESS REPORT FOR NCAP AUTHORIZATION

The National Camp Accreditation Program (NCAP) is designed to help a council analyze all aspects of its camping program. This analysis of staffing, program, facilities, and sustainability enables a council to assess its status in each of these areas in order to determine goals with measurable outcomes for the continuous improvement of its camping program.

NCAP AUTHORIZATION INTERIM REPORT:

BSA SAMPLE COUNCIL, #999, Anytown, XY

This NCAP interim report is prepared by the BSA Sample Council, which has been authorized to operate BSA camps for the period from 2018 to 2022.

Date of interim report: April 2020

CAMP / PROPERTY	CAMP PROGRAM[S]
Camp A / XYZ Scout Reservation	Cub Scout Resident
Camp B / XYZ Scout Reservation	Boy Scout Resident + COPE/Climbing

SIGNATURES AND CONTACT INFORMATION FOR COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

	SIGNATURE	TYPED NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION
Council President	<i>Jane Lynch Jones</i>	Jane Lynch Jones, jljones@gmail.com
Council Scout Executive	<i>Robert Smith</i>	Robert Smith, Rob.smith@scouting.org
Council NCAP Chair	<i>Michael Perez</i>	Michael Perez, mperez@aol.com
Director of Camping	<i>James Brown</i>	James Brown, Jim.brown@scouting.org

Source for council and camp information: <https://www.bsasamplescouting.org/>

The next few pages of this document present a council-wide overview and update of camp data, changes, and camp improvements since the council’s initial application for NCAP authorization.

The overview is followed by a camp-by-camp update.



I. COUNCIL-WIDE OVERVIEW & UPDATE

PROGRAM

Description/camping continuum within the Council

BSA Sample Council continues to offer an age-appropriate range of camping experiences, starting with Cub Day Camp and Family Camp, continuing with Cub Resident, and culminating with a Boy Scout Resident Camp program that includes COPE/Climbing and adventure activities. Resident camps are held for six weeks.

Highlights of program offerings

Theme-based fun is emphasized in Cub programs. Activities for older Scouts include adventure excursions such as backpacking and canoeing as well as camp-based waterfront, shooting sports, and climbing activities in addition to merit badges, all with emphasis on safety and preparedness along with challenge. Age-appropriate STEM activities have been added at all levels.

Progress in program Improvement initiatives

The council's core commitment for this NCAP Authorization period has been to enhance and promote its program offerings at its summer camps, specifically to add to the sense of fun and adventure as well as to strengthen STEM learning. The most successful of the STEM programs recently piloted and analyzed are Space Exploration, Inventing, and Programming; these will be retained and enriched. Fun & adventure programs that have been added or improved include backcountry hiking and kayaking. The most popular merit badge offerings recently piloted are Movie Making and Photography. In general, camp participants and observers report an increased atmosphere of excitement at camp.

The effort to improve council-wide camp promotion has resulted in the production of several short videos highlighting the fun, adventure, and learning that takes place at summer camps in the council. The videos have been presented on YouTube, on the Council website, and on Facebook pages. Sharing of the videos on social media is being tracked, with promising results thus far.

The council will continue to work on this core commitment by brainstorming ideas with focus groups, carefully planning and presenting each enhanced program element, and studying results to determine which new features are best received and what changes should be made moving forward.

FACILITIES

Council Camp Property

The 800-acre XYZ Scout Reservation, located in the community of Mountain View about an hour north of the council headquarters, has been reasonably well maintained over the years, although it is an aging camp with considerable opportunity for updating. The council owns the property, and there are no state easements or other issues complicating infrastructure improvements. The Cub Scout resident camp and the Boy Scout resident camp operate simultaneously in different areas of the reservation. The biggest challenge has been financial, as the council has identified improvements needed but has not often had the necessary resources.



Updated council analysis of facilities

Although we realize that the council was not required to re-do its camp facilities analysis in its entirety, council representatives chose to revisit the analysis by walking the camps, rating each building/venue again, and determining a new overall score. We are happy to report that the composite score is now a solid B.

Progress in facilities improvement initiatives

BSA Sample Council has been following through on its commitment to upgrade and maintain camp facilities. At the time of the NCAP Authorization, the Northeast Region asked the council to develop a step-by-step action plan for facilities improvement, since the overall facilities rating was lower than desirable (C+) and several buildings/sites were rated as D. Attached is the council's plan, with notations for work completed or scheduled. The camp-by-camp analysis in the next section of this interim report outlines improvements to each camp during the first three years of the authorization.

Sustainability

Perspectives on council membership, finances, and other related factors

BSA Sample Council has put significant focus on membership in the last three years, increasing its Cub Scout recruitment and overall youth retention rates. The number of Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts is now holding steady (+ or - <1%), after several years of declining membership.

The council has achieved a balanced budget for the last two years. Direct support, particularly from Family Friends of Scouting, has inched forward, and the endowment has experienced modest gains. However, the council is still recovering from significant losses in prior years.

Overall attendance in council's camp programs for the last three years

Attendance at summer camp programs has been holding steady overall, although the Boy Scout camp has experienced considerably more participation than the Cub Scout camp. Average total attendance at resident summer camps over the last three years has been 1,875, with peak participation in 2018 at 1,996.

Fiscal overview of council camping program for the last three years

While the Council has been subsidizing the Cub Scout camping program for some time, the Boy Scout resident camp has operated at a profit for many years. During the last three years, the council's composite net income over expenses for camping operations has been positive.

Progress in sustainability initiatives

BSA Sample Council has chosen Sustainability Commitment #2: "The council will operate its camping program in a financially sustainable fashion during the term of this authorization or else achieve this during the term of this authorization."

General statement about areas of focus for the next several years

BSA Sample Council will continue its focus on strengthening camp programs and promotion as well as improving facilities. We look forward to sharing progress reviews with the area and the region along the way.



II. UPDATE ON SPECIFIC CAMPS OPERATED BY THE COUNCIL

CAMP A – Cub Scout Resident

XYZ Scout Reservation
100 Scout Road
Mountain View, XY

CONTINUOUS CAMP IMPROVEMENT PLAN AT CAMP A

The following chart outlines continuous camp improvement initiatives undertaken at Camp A thus far during the Authorization period.

	GOAL	CRITERIA	NOTES
YEAR 1	• Improve attendance of Webelos. Scouts	Increased # Webelos attending	√ 12 more Webelos attended
	• Build STEM program.	Program piloted	√ Started but much more to do
	• Enhance the curb appeal at the Cub camp entrance.	Replace signs, repaint building, add landscaping, remove anything unsightly.	√ Accomplished
	• Revise food service plan and track/analyze finances.	New plan implemented and financial impact analyzed	√ Cost saving. (No evidence of customer dissatisfaction)
YEAR 2	• Prepare/post camp promotional videos.	Videos produced + shared	√ YouTube, Council website
	• Improve total # attending.	Increased # attendees	√ Best year in anyone's memory
	• Remove old craft lodge and build new pavilion (with enclosed storage) at site.	Building demolished and pavilion completed	√ Accomplished
	• Achieve a balanced budget for summer camp.	Income exceeding expenses	+/- Slight subsidy needed but closer to profitability than in past
YEAR 3	• Implement plan for parents sharing promotional videos on social media.	Social media posts and shares tracked and reported	(in process)
	• Grow attendance.	Increased # attending	(in process)
	• Install flush toilets and updated showers throughout camp.	Building project completed	(in process)
	• Achieve a balanced budget for summer camp.	Income exceeding expenses	(in process)

PROGRAM

Camp A's six-week resident summer camp program features weekly sessions of five days and four nights, with four weeks of pack camping and two weeks of individual/provisional camping.

Enthusiasm has been building regarding the new STEM programs. The STEM emphasis has also helped to build more relationships with local educators. Seeking assistance from focus groups of parents and teachers has increased community visibility for Scouting programs in general as well as for summer camp.

Involving parents in showcasing and promoting the fun and adventure of summer camp through posting and sharing videos has generated a great deal of interest.



FACILITIES

The Cub resident camp was established about fifteen years ago in an area of the XYZ reservation once used for Boy Scout programming. While attention has been given to needed maintenance over the years, the Cub camp area has needed updating and “sprucing up” for quite some time.

Facilities initiatives in the past three years have focused on improving the general appearance, updating toilet and shower facilities, and tearing down an old building to be replaced with a new pavilion. Enhancing the curb appeal at the entrance involved repainting the exterior of the nearby health lodge, landscaping the area, and installing welcoming informational signs. All bathroom facilities now have flush toilets, and showers are now individually accessed cubicles with up-to-date plumbing. A building used for crafts was deemed not worthy of saving and has been demolished; an attractive new pavilion with built-in storage for supplies will become the new craft center.

SUSTAINABILITY

Attendance at Camp A Cub Scout Resident Camp has been gradually improving over the course of the authorization period, with last year showing a notable increase.

2017	2018	2019
649	663	702

The camp fee for Cub Scouts attending with their packs is now \$325, although early-bird registrants pay \$300. Cub Scouts attending individually pay \$375, except for early registrants paying \$350.

The Cub Scout resident summer camp program continues to incur net losses each year, although the loss has improved from -\$15,210 three years ago to -\$4,306 last year. The council has made the decision to

2017	2018	2019
-\$15,210	-\$7,422	-\$4,306

sustain the losses and subsidize the Cub program as needed because of the importance of the Cub resident camp operation to long-term membership and program success for youth.

Council leaders continue to work to improve the sustainability of the Cub Scout resident camp. Recent efforts to improve program and to involve parents in video-based social media promotion have resulted in improvement in camp attendance. More efficient food service has also improved camp finances.

GENERAL STATEMENT ABOUT AREAS OF FOCUS FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS

The council’s efforts to put more priority on Cub Scout camp program and facilities seem to be making a substantial difference in the success of this Cub resident camp. The collaborative focus on improving the camping experience for Cub Scouts will continue, with particular attention going to facility improvement, camp promotion, and strengthening of the fun and learning in camp activities.



CAMP B – Boy Scout Resident

XYZ Scout Reservation
100 Scout Road
Mountain View, XY

CONTINUOUS CAMP IMPROVEMENT PLAN AT CAMP B

The following chart outlines continuous camp improvement initiatives undertaken at Camp B thus far during the Authorization period.

	GOAL	CRITERIA	NOTES
YEAR 1	• Improve participation in First-Year Camper program.	Increased # attending	√ 15 more First-Year Camper attendees
	• Initiate STEM program with appropriate merit badges.	Program piloted	√ Good start - need more promotion + analysis of elements
	• Add/revise overall merit badge offerings each year, maintaining core outdoor badges while piloting exciting new activities.	Changing list of merit badges+ tracking of popularity	√ Several popular new additions + phasing out of others
	• Replace the roof on the camp dining hall.	Roofing project completed	√ Accomplished
	• Revise food service plan and track/analyze finances.	New plan implemented and financial impact analyzed	√ Cost saving (No evidence of customer dissatisfaction)
YEAR 2	• Prepare/post camp promotional videos.	Videos produced + shared	√ YouTube, Council website
	• Improve total # attending.	# attendees	√ Accomplished
	• Remove old building damaged in storm (in area off-limits to campers).	Building demolished and debris removed	√ Accomplished
	• Strengthen the adventure treks to feature kayaking as well as hiking and canoeing.	Kayaking element added to program	√ Accomplished
	• Enlist local teachers and other STEM professionals in developing program and identifying/securing science resources.	At least 3 STEM professionals assisting in lesson planning/implementation	√ High level of involvement
YEAR 3	• Implement plan for parents' sharing promotional videos on social media.	Social media posts and shares tracked and reported	√ Record of posts/shares compiled – still ongoing
	• Rewrite the leaders' guide and post electronically.	New guide posted on website by November 15	√ Accomplished
	• Grow attendance in STEM program	# Scouts participating	(in process)
	• Remodel the nature lodge to provide better support to the STEM program.	Remodeling completed	(in process)

PROGRAM

Camp B's six-week resident summer camp program features weekly sessions of six days and five nights, with back-country treks offered during three of the six weeks. The four-day guided treks take Scouts into the mountains several hours away for hiking, canoeing, and kayaking experiences that are both adventurous and safe. More focus is now given to preparation for the treks, with an expanded leader guide plus an orientation



to prepare for the experience during a day and night at base camp preceding the trek. Trekkers return to camp in time for an expanded reflection and participation in the Friday night camp-wide closing campfire.

On-site experiences now give increased emphasis to the First-Year Camper program while continuing the fun and advancement in waterfront activities, shooting sports, handicrafts, and climbing activities. Enhanced merit badge offerings include STEM badges such as Space Exploration, Inventing, and Programming, which have proven to be particularly popular. The recently added Movie Making and Photography merit badges have also generated excitement.

FACILITIES

Our Boy Scout resident camp has always enjoyed considerable support from volunteers, many of whom donate considerable time and expertise to physical improvements at camp. During the last three years, volunteers have replaced the roof on the dining hall, removed a storm-damaged building that has not been used in many years, and remodeled the old nature lodge to provide better support to the STEM program. Local educators and other STEM professionals have helped to plan and implement the facilities improvements to enhance the STEM merit badge curricula.

SUSTAINABILITY

Attendance at Camp B Boy Scout Resident Camp has continued at high levels over the course of the authorization period, with increases each year.

2017	2018	2019
1169	1198	1244

The camp fee for Boy Scouts attending with their troops continues at \$375, although early bird registrants pay \$350. Boy Scouts attending individually/provisionally pay \$425, except for early registrants paying \$400.

The Boy Scout resident summer camp program continues to operate at a profit to the council. For example, in 2015 the average realized fee per participant was \$368, while expenses totaled \$336 per participant. Net profit has increased each year.

2017	2018	2019
\$36,458	\$38,316	\$39,808

GENERAL STATEMENT ABOUT AREAS OF FOCUS FOR THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS

Council leaders as well as camp staff and volunteers take great pride in Camp B. In general, we see a need to keep building momentum as we celebrate the terrific summer camp experience and involve parents in helping to promote the camp, while continuously improving program and facilities.