



NATIONAL CAMP
ACCREDITATION PROGRAM

NCAP Information Sheet

The purpose of the National Camp Accreditation Program is to help councils elevate camps to new levels of excellence in delivering Scouting's promise to youth.

New Standards

- Combined and comprehensive, but tailored to each camp
- All standards required if applicable; recommended practices selected by the council
- Numbered sequentially and organized by categories
 - PD = Program Design
 - PS = Program Substantive
 - PT = Trek Camp
 - SQ = Staff Qualification and Training
 - HS = Health and Safety
 - FS = Commissary and Food Service
 - FA = Facilities
 - AO = Administration and Operational Management
- Consistent format: number and title, applicability, standard (or recommended practice), specific requirements, interpretation, verification

Annual Steps

Intent to Operate: The council identifies the camps and dates of operation for the upcoming year.

Declaration of Readiness: The council states that it is ready to open camp and attaches the documents to facilitate assessment (checklist provided).

Standards-based assessment: This ensures compliance with the national camp standards to provide a safe, high-quality program. It also provides program recommendations with direct on-site knowledge, builds knowledge for authorization, and provides meaningful accreditation.

Camp accreditation: Based on results from the assessment visit, all applicable standards are met, all authorization terms, conditions, and commitments are met, and the Continuous Camp Improvement Program is functioning. The camp may be accredited, accredited with recognition (Silver or Gold), or conditionally accredited.

Continuous Camp Improvement Program: There are three broad steps: identifying areas of strengths and areas for improvement, setting measurable success criteria for these areas, and monitoring progress against the success criteria.

Multiyear Functions

Application for Authorization: Identifies a description of camps, program goals, the Strategic Analysis Short Form, and program and facility quality and financial sustainability commitments. Clarifies applicable standards and the opportunity to request variances or waivers.

Analysis: Short Form required of the following: data from JTE dashboard, membership dashboard, camping report, attendance records, and council financial reports.

Authorization: Issued by the regional camp accreditation committee, it grants authority to a council to operate camps for one to five years and clarifies applicable standards.



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NCAP Process Steps and Calendar

Task or Document	Responsible Group	Target Time	Multiyear	Every Year	Starts (Required by)
1. Application for Authorization (with initial analysis and commitments)	Council → region	Late fall	✓		**2012 (2015)
2. Authorization to Operate	Region → area/council	Winter/spring	✓		**2013 (2016)
3. Intent to Operate	Council → area/region	Late fall		✓	2012–annually
4. Declaration of Readiness	Council → area/region	Late spring		✓	2013–annually
5. On-site assessment	Area or *council (see below)	Camp season		✓	2013–annually
6. Accreditation	Area → council	Camp season		✓	2013–annually
7. Reports and surveys	Participants → National Council Area → council/region/ National Council Council → National Council	End of season		✓	2013–annually

* Note that councils will conduct self-assessments for day camps, family camps, and selected other camping programs.

** The application/authorization will be phased in, with the first group of councils completing this step in 2013. (Implementation of the application/authorization steps will be preceded by implementation of the steps in the yearly process, which begins in 2012–13 for everyone.)

Key References for Councils

Each is available for download on the NCAP website at www.scouting.org/NCAP.

- Introduction to the National Camp Accreditation Program, No. 430-077
- Council Application for Authorization to Operate, No. 430-079
- Instructions: Council Application for Authorization to Operate, No. 430-080
- *National Camp Standards*, No. 430-056
- NCAP Standards At-a-Glance
- *Council Implementation Guide*, No. 430-073
- *Guide to the Continuous Camp Improvement Program*, No. 430-075

Material to Be Tailored to Council and Camp

Document	Applicability	Description (Development)
Authorization to Operate	Each council operating a camp	Council and camp-specific authorization and commitments (prepared by region based on application information and consultation with the council)
Standards At-a-Glance for Camp X	Specific resident or trek camp	Council- and camp-specific standards (prepared initially by the area in consultation with the council; final by the region during authorization)