



National Camping School

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: How long is my certification valid?

A: Upon successful completion of a National Camping School (NCS) course, your certification will be good for 5 summer camping seasons, ending on 12-31 of the year following the fifth camping season. For example, you attend and pass NCS in May 2022, this certification is valid from May 2022 through 12-31-2026 ('22, '23, '24, '25, '26 = five camping seasons.)

NOTED Exception: Short-term camp administrator certification is valid for 2 calendar years from the date of the training.

Q: When can I take a recertification course?

A: If a recertification course is offered for your section, you may take a recertification course at any time while you are currently certified and for up to 6 months after your certification has expired.

Q: If my certification has expired and I plan to take a recertification course the following spring, can I serve in that position during the time between my expire date of December and the NCS course in the spring?

A: No. You may not serve in any role that requires NCS with an expired NCS certification.

Q: I have lost my certification card, does that mean I cannot serve?

A: If you have misplaced your current certification, email ncs@scouting.org and request a replacement card. Please indicate in the email the certification you are seeking and the date and location, if known, of your most recent training.

Q: I am not going to be able to attend NCS at any of the courses that are listed, can I get an extension on my certification?

A: The BSA National Outdoor Program Training and Development Subcommittee does not plan to award extensions except in the most extreme circumstances. You must attend a National Camping School to be certified.

Q: What is the recertification program for Camp and Program Directors?

A: Beginning in 2021, all camp and program directors must attend the full week NCS course when their certification expires. Then, they can choose to either participate in the Camp Director or Program Director continuing education program that was instituted in 2022 or attend they can choose to attend the full week long NCS course again to be certified. For more information about this program, visit the NCS website at <https://www.scouting.org/outdoor-programs/national-camping-school/>

Q: For Day Camp Administration there is a three-part training. Do I have to take the three parts in order?

A: While it is not yet required to take the three parts of the training in any order, we strongly recommend the trainings be completed in order (Online module, In-council module, NCS weekend). The training is designed to build on each piece of the training, and you will be more prepared for your on-site NCS weekend by taking the online and in-council training first. Reminder: You will not be certified as a day camp administrator until you have completed all three portions of the training.