

# THE GAMEHAVEN YEAR-ROUND CAMPER AWARD



The “**Gamehaven Year-Round Camper Award**” (GYRCA) is an award open to youth Scouts and adult Scouters. The requirements are listed below, and the camping will follow principles that Lord Baden Powell would approve of. The main purpose of this award is to motivate all council scout troops/ crews/teams to participate in a year-round outdoor program. “*Scouting*” is 75% “*outing*”. Lord Baden-Powell was a strong proponent of a year-round outdoor program and once remarked “*Camping is what the boys look forward to in Scouting.*”

Even though we live in Minnesota, as Scouts, we should all **Be Prepared** to embrace our local weather, and to not just survive, but **thrive** at our camping events. Campouts should be fun, but also incorporate some service, skills development, or advancement activities.

## The requirements for the Gamehaven year-round camper award are:

- 1) An individual Scout or Scouter may earn this award by **camping at least 1 night in 11 of 12 consecutive months**. The months do not need to fall within the same calendar year but must be consecutive.
- 2) One of the campouts should be a longer 5–7-night stay at an accredited Scout Camp or at a high adventure location.
- 3) Camping is defined as staying overnight in either a tent, hammock, improvised shelter, or sleeping under the stars for at least one night during a given month in a BSA setting with your patrol, troop, lodge, or other Scout group. (Cabin camping, use of other permanent shelters, or camping outside of a BSA setting does not count.)
- 4) The camping event must follow all Boy Scouts of America guidelines in the Guide to Safe Scouting. Each camp site must be left better than it was found under the current principles of Leave No Trace. Although it is encouraged to camp (and perform some service work at GSR), qualifying camping events may be held by the patrol, troop, or other scouting group at any BSA accredited Scout camp, state or national park, or other approved location.
- 5) During the campout, the Scout/Scouters must either help prepare and clean up for at least three individual or group meals, work at least 1 hour on a group service project, use the EDGE method to teach a Scout a Scouting skill, **OR** make progress on some aspect of rank or merit badge advancement. (District Camporees or OA camping events are qualifying events for this award!)
- 6) Multiple campouts or camping nights in a given month cannot be carried over to cover the camping requirement in another month.
- 7) The attending Troop adult leader (or suitable substitute) is required to sign-off at each event to verify that the individual has camped and met the other requirements of this award. Lone Scouts or Scouters not affiliated with a specific troop/crew/team may keep track of their own documentation and get verification by any registered Gamehaven Council or District Scouter for each camping event.
- 8) Each unit will be responsible for keeping the documentation and filing the Gamehaven Year-Round Camper Award applications (attached) for their members.
- 9) The GYRCA patch will be purchased and presented to any Scout or Scouter earning it, when the completed application is turned into the Council Office. Scouts/Scouters may earn this award multiple times and may add a device pin to the patch worn on their uniform to mark their progress. It may be worn as a temporary insignia using the button loop over the right pocket. Individual Scouts and Scouters who have earned this award may also choose to purchase an additional patch once per year for trading purposes outside the council. The GYRCA patch will not be available for general Scout office sales but must be earned.
- 10) Units are free to use these opportunities or substitute their own camping activities to fulfill all of the award requirements. Scouts and Scouters should work with their patrols and troops to make sure that their unit provides the other required monthly camping opportunities.
- 11) It is hoped that in the future, individual Gamehaven units will build on this tradition to not only increase the year-round camping opportunities for their unit's scouts, but also to perhaps sponsor an occasional camping outing open to other Gamehaven units.

# Year Around Camper Award Application Form



Name of candidate: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Type: Troop/Team/Crew Unit Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Campout	Location	Arrival Date	Nights Camped	Depart Date	Unit Leader Approval (initials)
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					

*I certify that I have satisfactorily completed all requirements for this award.*

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_  
Candidate's Signature

*I certify that the candidate has satisfactorily met all requirements for this award.*

\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_  
Unit Leader's Signature