

The Nights Away Permit Scheme

Question 1

Why do we have a Nights Away Permit Scheme?

The aim of the Nights Away Permit Scheme is to promote safe, quality residential and camping experiences within Scouting.

All those leading residential experiences for young people within Scouting need to have the skills, experience and suitability to take young people away safely.

Everyone who leads a residential event for young people within Scouting is required to hold a Nights Away Permit for the event they are running.

The Nights Away Permit Scheme is a national scheme, but it is administered locally, so once gained a permit will allow you to run a night's away event in any District or County.

Question 2

What are the four types of Nights Away Permit available to leaders?

- indoor
- campsite
- green field
- lightweight expedition

Question 3

Permits are not section specific list the type of permit that each section's leaders may hold.

All leaders may hold any permit and can lead camps in other sections. For example, a Green Field permit holder can run indoor and camp site experiences.

Question 4

What is the maximum possible term for each type of permit?

Permits last for up to five years.

Question 5

Is a Nights Away permit needed for each area in which you camp?

No. Permits are nationally recognised. Explain where further guidance on the Nights Away

Permit Scheme and guidance on the different areas can be found.

Family Nights Away

Question 6

Family nights away are a good way to enthuse parents. Which sections can attend?

All sections can attend. Family nights away are events arranged by a Group or District for youth Members accompanied by parents/carers and siblings. They aim to introduce parents to the Methods of Scouting and strengthen the links between the constituent Sections of the Group.

Question 7

True or false?

a. Parents don't need to have any criminal record checks to attend a family nights away activity.

False. All adults attending overnight Scouting activities must complete the appropriate criminal record checks.

b. Parents or supporters will need to get extra insurance to cover them on a family nights away activity.

True. Members of the Movement are covered by The Scout Association's general insurance policies.

Non-members, such as supporters, parents and carers, need to be covered by additional insurance, which the County may already have purchased (the trainer should check this information beforehand).

International travel

Question 8

What are the ways in which international residential experiences may be organised?

- international events (for example World Scout Jamborees) organised by HQ
- organised by a travel company
- organised by someone holding a relevant Nights Away Permit