

Twenty days and nights of camping will be real fun and quickly accomplished if a Scout is a year-round camper. A camping trip during each of the fall and winter holidays and during spring vacation, plus summer camp, will soon add up to twenty days and nights of camping.

Camping May Help Later On

But camping should mean more than just fun and frolic in the outdoors. Scouts who learn how to be expert campers are learning a skill that may be tremendously important as they grow older. They may be learning something that will help them with their life's works—or may even help them save their lives some day.

Think of all the jobs a Scout may have eight or ten years after he earns his Camping merit badge that will give him an opportunity to use his knowledge of outdoor living.

Engineers who build bridges across jungle rivers and ravines or across high mountain canyons; surveyors who plan transcontinental highways; aviation experts who build landing fields in wilderness areas for world-wide air freight routes; aviation meterologists who man weather stations on the Arctic Circle or in the equatorial jungle or even in a desert oasis; mining engineers and petroleum experts who look for new sources of necessary metals and oil; all these professions may possibly demand an expert knowledge of camping and outdoor living. There are more, too.

Men who guard our nation's forests and plan how to increase their size; guides in our many national parks and monuments; field biologists who study the lives of everything from a fighting salmon to a huge brown bear; anthropologists and archaeologists who hunt the world over for signs of



previous civilizations and prehistoric animal life; a great many jobs in the field of natural sciences will make necessary a knowledge of outdoor living. For in jobs such as these, camping may be the only means of living until the job is done.

A great many hobbies, too, will be easier to follow if a man

can camp easily and comfortably under any conditions.

Hunting and fishing in unusual places; canoeing in white water; mountain climbing above the timberline; collecting specimens of rare birds, insects, flowers, or other plant life; or photographing wild animals in their natural haunts as did Theodore Roosevelt in the early 1900's—these are only some of the hobbies that require a knowledge of camping and outdoor living before they can be carried out.

Camping May Help Save Lives

A great many Scouts are already planning careers in aviation, which in the next few years will find more and more planes flying over an increasingly larger part of the earth's surface. Since it will take time to perfect airplane engines, and since a very large part of the earth still is not inhabited, there will always be a chance that planes will be forced down in some out-of-the-way place—in prairie, desert, water, forest, marsh, or even on a mountaintop—leaving pilot, crew, and passengers to survive or not, depending upon their skill in living on their own outdoors under unusual conditions.

Many times shelter and clothing will have to be improvised, and food will have to be obtained from wild plants and animals. It seems obvious that the expert camper will stand a better chance of coming out alive and in good health than a person who has had no experience in outdoor living.