

Chief Okemos Council POLAR BEAR AWARD APPLICATION Boy Scouts of America

Filed in behalf of: _____
(Name of Applicant)

Boy Scout Troop #: _____

Venture Crew #: _____

Scouter Position: _____



I hereby certify completion of the Chief Okemos Council's requirements for the Polar Bear Award in freezing weather as indicated below:

I have lived Out-Of-Doors for 24 Hours in an average temperature for that time period that was below freezing.

On _____ at _____
(Date) (Location)

Snow depth was _____. Temperature ranged from _____ to _____.

My menu was as follows:

Breakfast: _____

Lunch: _____

Dinner: _____

I packed my equipment into camp using: _____

My Polar Bear Camp buddies were:

Here is a diagram of the improvised shelter we used:

____ Yes, I would be interested in completing the official cold weather camping training course called OKPIK.

Signed: _____

Leader's Statement: Through personal conversation with the candidate, or by reason of personal observation of the camp, I am satisfied the above named candidate has earned and is entitled to the Polar Bear Award.

Signed: _____
(Signature of Unit Leader and Date)

Date name added to council Polar Bear Award list: _____

POLAR BEAR AWARD REQUIREMENTS
CHIEF OKEMOS COUNCIL
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

A real outdoors person knows how to care for himself/herself out-of-doors in winter. Believing that most of our Scouts/Ventures and leaders would enjoy the challenge of rugged winter camping, we hope to stimulate such activity by means of these requirements for the **POLAR BEAR AWARD**.

1. Before any Scout/Ventures is ready to start his/her Polar Bear experience, his/her unit leader must be sure of the Scout's/Ventures' knowledge of the following points:
 - a. The Scout/Ventures should have fundamental camping skills mastered
 - b. Have the right type of clothing, bedding, and camp equipment for winter camping
 - c. Cleanliness in cooking and care of campsites.
 - d. Safety practice in care of food, fires, and health.
2. The award must be earned during weather that will average below freezing for a 24-hour period.
3. Camping may be done at Camp Kiwanis, at Northwoods Scout Reservation, or any other place acceptable to the Troop, District(s) or Council Camping and Activities Committee(s).
4. Two, three, or four Scouts/Ventures may combine food and equipment, but each Polar Bear candidate must do his/her share of the following:
 - a. Eat and sleep out-of-doors for 24 hours in the camp he/she helped set up.
 - b. Furnish their own cooking and eating utensils.
 - c. Prepare and plan a menu suited to cold weather.
 - d. Purchase and pack their own food.
 - e. Prepare and cook according to his/her menu.
 - f. Use Leave No Trace Camping Methods (Go to <http://www.lnt.org/programs/lnt7/index.html> for more information)
5. Using an improvising shelter is mandatory to earn polar bear. It can be for example built of poles with grass, downed pine boughs, tarps, or pieces of canvas thrown over poles. Since such shelters will be flammable, special precautions should be observed in the use of fires. ***NO LIVE TIMBER IS TO BE CUT!*** Only when OKPIK trained participants or leaders are present is anyone allowed to you use snow piled quinzhees, igloos, or snow caves. For information on winter camping go to <http://www.scouting.org/pubs/gss/gss13.html>
6. A SCOUT IS THRIFTY. He/She should be careful in the use of food and equipment. He/She should practice conservation in the use of materials or making the shelter, and in building his/her fireplace for safe cooking and winter comfort. Leave No Trace Camping
7. Submit the application for the Polar Bear Award to the Chief Okemos Council. When submitting the application the Council the patches should be purchased at the Council Scout Shop at the same time to prove completion of the requirements.