

Nights Away Permit Scheme

Summary of Updates 2007

Updates

These are the updates that are happening to the Nights Away Permit Scheme (NAPS) following the review of how successfully it has been implemented and is running.

New category – Lightweight Expedition

- Recognition that when running expeditions you don't need exactly the same skills as when running standing camps on greenfield sites, in particular programme planning and types of equipment.
- (POR 9.57a): Lightweight Expedition – for staying at any site for not more than one night before moving on. The core activity is a form of expedition, not residential, and all the equipment is transported with the participants. i.e. QSA/DofE hikes, expedition hikes, canoe expeditions.

First aid is required for all Nights Away events

- Although the permit holder has always had the responsibility of ensuring there is first aid provision at an event, there is now a specific requirement for a first aid holder to be present.
- (POR 9.56d): All groups undertaking a nights away event must have immediate access to someone holding First Response. This need not be the permit holder.

Nights Away Permit renewal is separate to warrant review

- It is no longer recommended these take place at the same time as it is a different process and different people involved.
- There is now clarification that a Nights Away Permit expires at its expiry date and has to be reapplied for.
- (POR 9.57j): Permits will expire automatically if they are not renewed.

Simplify the process of under 18s working with Service Teams

- Where under 18s are working with service teams at activity centres or campsites they currently require a new nights away passport and notification to their DC each time they stay while working at the site. This change allows them to be given a multi date passport and multi date notification to be made to the DC
- (POR 9.61f): Those responsible for running Scout campsites or activity centres with a Nights Away Permit may issue site specific event passports for an extended period (up to a maximum of 12 months) covering multiple service events for under 18's working on projects on their sites.
- (POR 9.61g): The home Commissioner must be informed of under 18's working on service team projects at Scout campsites and activity centres, but a separate NAN form for each occasion need not be completed if a range of dates is specified.

Nights Away Adviser (NAA) workshops

- To help support NAAs in their role we are looking to run, and to promote and support the running of local NAA workshops.

Updated the Nights Away Adviser requirements

- The requirements needed to be a NAA have been updated to ensure that those in the role have the skills and experience to carry it out effectively. They are:

Be formally appointed by District or County

- As per any other appointment
- NAAs are generally a District appointment, but there will be a few at County level to work with those with County appointments.

Hold a Nights Away Permit

- All NAAs will need to hold a permit to the level they are assessing. i.e. A NAA holding an indoor permit can only assess for indoor permits; a NAA holding a campsite permit can assess for campsite and indoor permits; a NAA holding a greenfield permit can assess for all categories; a NAA holding a lightweight expedition permit can only assess for lightweight expedition permits.
- This will ensure that all NAAs have the technical knowledge they need for the role, and also allow more NAAs to work specifically with indoor and/or campsite permit holders without the need for greenfield knowledge and skills.

Validate module 25 for NAAs

- This ensures that all NAAs have the soft skills of assessing, feeding back, supporting applicants etc that are important within their role.
- There is separate validation of this module for different roles. i.e. validation for a NAA is different than for a Training Adviser or County Activity Assessor.

Attend a NAA workshop

- This ensures NAAs remain up to date in their role and gives them the chance for peer support and cross District and County working to spread good practise.
- Need to attend at least one workshop day within their five year appointment.

Confirmations

These are not changes to the current scheme, but provide further clarification where certain subjects might not have been clear before.

Permits are not section specific

- Nights Away Permits are not section specific in the same way that Adventurous Activity Permits are not section specific.
- Giving section specific permits causes a number of problems, such as Young Leaders not being able to attend and help on events as the Leader's permit did not include Explorer Scouts.
- (POR 9.57e) Nights Away Permits are not section specific and Districts and Counties must not operate a policy of issuing only section specific permits.

The Nights Away Permit Scheme is a National scheme

- (POR 9.57f) A permit holder may operate with members from another District or County (subject to the normal approval of the District/County Commissioner of the Members concerned).

Event Passports are only for under 18s

- If an over 18 has the skills to lead a Nights Away event then they can get a permit. If they don't have the skills to get a permit they don't have the skills to lead a Nights Away event. Passports can not be used to circumnavigate the system.
- (POR 9.61c) Event passports can not be given to those aged over 18.

Notification is required for Network Nights Away events

- (POR 9.61h) When leading a Scout Network residential event a Nights Away Permit is not required but notification is.

There is no maximum age to gain a permit

- (9.57h) There is no maximum age limit to gaining a Nights away Permit.

There are no prerequisites to applying for a permit

- There is no requirement to have attended any specific training event (such as Module 16) before getting a Nights Away Permit.

A Nights Away Permit is not the same as Module 16

- There is no requirement to have done Module 16 to gain a Nights Away Permit.
- There is no need to get a Nights Away Permit to finish your Wood Badge training.
- Validating Module 16 does not automatically gain you a Nights Away Permit.
- However gaining a Nights Away Permit is one way of validating module 16.

Better definitions of:

A Nights Away event

- (POR 9.55b) This includes all events where it is intended that young people will sleep overnight and arrangements are put in place for this purpose, such as sleepovers, camps, Pack Holidays and expeditions.

When the permit holder needs to be on site

- (POR 9.56a) as a minimum, attend the event during the time that provision is made for young people to be sleeping overnight. They remain responsible for the event at all times.

The difference between a campsite and greenfield

- (POR 9.57a) - Camp Site – for staying at a site that has toilets plumbed into a waste disposal system (i.e. a cess pit, storage tank or mains drains) and access to running drinking water.
 - Green Field – for staying at any site where any of the above facilities do not exist – for example, a summer camp on a farmer's field.

Who needs to hold a permit at large camps?

- (POR 9.56c) For large scale events there needs to be a permit holder responsible for each residential group. There is no limit to the number of groups that a permit holder can be responsible for, but they remain responsible for the standard of the event for each group.

Resources

Details of resources updated to support the changes

Online application form

- A single page MS Word form that can be filled in online and sent as an email attachment, or printed off and filled in by hand.

Redesigned the permit

- Provide more room for writing and remove the need for a photo.

Redesigned the passport to be available online

- A printer friendly version that should be easy on printer cartridges to allow permit holders to download passports to use for their young people.

Streamlined the factsheets

- An attempt to remove superfluous information and repetition from the factsheets so that it is easy to find the information you need.

Improved the assessment checklist

- Aiming for a more national standard by proving NAAs with a more detailed syllabus to assess against.

Ability to record permits on the Membership Database

- Shortly there will be the ability to record NAPs on the Membership Services database for ease of administration and communication.