



NATIONAL CAMP
ACCREDITATION PROGRAM



National NCAP Authorization Overview

The NCAP's multiyear authorization cycle begins with the council submitting an **Application for Authorization to Operate** to the National NCAP Committee. This process is designed to help a council review its programs and properties, develop camp strategic plans, and understand the true financial impact the camping program has on its operation. The application contains a description of each of the council's camps for which it is seeking Authorization to Operate.

The council will use the **Camp Facilities Evaluation Tool**, to obtain an objective assessment of each camp's facilities from a Scouting America brand perspective. It further provides the council with an itemized score for each of its facilities indicating those in need of improvements and allows a budget to be developed for those improvements.

The **Council and Camp Sustainability Data Sheets** provide an objective assessment of the contribution of the camps, individually and collectively, to the council's financial sustainability. This information is taken from various council financial records and presents the true financial impacts the camping program has on council operations.

Councils are asked to provide **Sustainability Commitments** to be met over the term of the authorization in the areas of finance, facilities, and program for their camping program.

The council will then develop a **Camp Strategic Improvement Plan** for each long-term camp to review the program, program equipment, staffing, attendance, financial sustainability, marketing, and facilities. The intent is to continuously improve and grow in all improvement areas. The Camp Strategic Improvement Plan will cover at least five of the seven areas.

The application requires a review and approval by the council's executive committee or executive board so that everyone understands the impact of their camps on the council. After completion of the documents, the National NCAP team will review all documents and plans, and then provide the council with an **Authorization Report** detailing their findings and issue the council an **Authorization to Operate** for its camps. This authorization is usually for a 5-year term. All Scouting America councils are required to have an **NCAP Authorization to Operate**.

