

Nights Away Assessor Notes

When assessing new nights away permit applications:

- All new permits must be processed via 'My Membership'
- <https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/volunteer-experience/digital-tool-guides/permits/#AssessAPermitApplication>
- Don't accept applications with less than 6 weeks notice.
- Don't assess family members.
- Attendance at Rosemary's or equivalent skill weekend is highly encouraged for everyone (but not mandatory if they have the required skills already). If don't have the skills then permit should not be recommended and instead declined with the recommendation to attend a course.
- Ensure applicants have been the leader in charge of multiple previous Scouting night away events under an existing permit holder prior to assessment. Young person/ attending events not as the leader in charge/ personal/ family camping experience is not the same as being the leader in charge of a Scout night away event. This is to ensure suitable experience has been gained not only with personal skills but also dealing with planning, organising, co-ordinating, pressure, responsibility, group management etc.
- A physical practical assessment is expected to be carried out in addition to questions and experience.
- An assessment camp should be long enough to be able to cover the points on the assessment checklist (ie a camp with biscuits for supper and cereal for breakfast would not be sufficient, but a 12noon - 12noon with cooked meals usually would be).
- A permit doesn't need to be recommended first time, and advice can be given on how to improve with a second assessment scheduled and the My Membership status can remain in progress and not approved/rejected during this time.

When assessing renewals:

- All permit renewals must be processed via 'My Membership'
- <https://www.scouts.org.uk/volunteers/volunteer-experience/digital-tool-guides/permits/#AssessAPermitApplication>
- Don't assess family members.
- Applicant should have enough experience since last permit granted to show kept skills up to date (this is suggested to be 5 or more night away events as leader in charge or permit holder). If not a technical assessment may be required, or a check of up to date knowledge with large amounts of previous experience.
- A physical assessment may be asked for in any circumstance and particularly if unsure.

Barrwood all year New or Renewals:

- This should be a greenfield permit that is applied for with the technical assessment restriction of 'Greenfield Barrwood only, Campsite elsewhere'.
- Experience as the leader in charge or permit holder in Barrwood 'winter mode' must be shown in the last 5 years (under an existing permit holder if new permit application).

And from the 'task list':

- Use the [Assessment Checklist](#) to assess those adult volunteers who'd like a Nights Away Permit.
- Support volunteers who haven't participated in nights away activities before. Help them with the planning, delivery, and evaluation of nights away events.
- Use the [Assessment Guide](#) to decide which level of permit an adult volunteer should have, passing these recommendations to the Permit Approver or Lead Volunteer.
- Help volunteers renew their permits when they expire (usually a maximum of five years from date of issue).
- Keep up to date with [Scouts' policies](#) and remain active in the community.
- Support learning about nights away in the District and County.