

Rover Scouts Rough the Elements

This year, as the masses marked the (Chinese) New Year with red envelopes, round-table banquets, and the deafening clamor of firecrackers, Tamkang's rover scouts did not rest. Instead, they took part in a grueling 6-day induction; an annual event called "Boot Camp - Initiation", which has been held every year for the past 40 years. The President of the TKU Rover Scout Association, third year student Hsieh Min-yen, exclaimed "It's all about getting them out in rough conditions and teaching them to survive!"

Boot camp was held in a set location in Taipei's Yang Ming Mountain. In this setting, new members were put through their paces. On one of the days they went hungry, deprived of dinner, after failing to complete the task of cooking their food within the allotted time. Yet after initial difficulty in "gelling" as a team, the new members pulled together and turned despair into delight: "On the fourth day, when we ate some steaming hot food, I was so happy I cried!"

After the camp, participants confirmed that "It was a grueling experience, but missing out (on the camp) would have been painful."

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TKU Rover Scouts pose for a group picture near base camp at Yang Ming Mountain.