

THE RANKS OF SCOUTING

Scouting provides many opportunities for you to learn skills and take part in fantastic adventures. The Boy Scouts of America will recognize your achievements by awarding badges of rank. The ranks are:

- 1. TENDERFOOT**
- 2. SECOND CLASS**
- 3. FIRST CLASS**
- 4. STAR**
- 5. LIFE**
- 6. EAGLE, WHICH IS THE HIGHEST RANK**

The requirements to earn each rank are more challenging than the one before it. Each prepares you to be a better camper, hiker, Scout, and citizen. When you complete the requirements for a rank, you will find that you can use your new knowledge on patrol and troop outings. You will also have the background you need for achieving even more as you begin the next rank.

Setting out to advance through the ranks of Scouting and become an Eagle Scout is an ambitious goal. Learning all the skills and completing all the requirements will take dedication and hard work. But the journey will be worth it as the ideals and adventure of Scouting become a part of your life.

You may pass any of the requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class at any time. For example, if you fulfill a First Class requirement before you are a Second Class Scout, you may check off the First Class requirement as completed. Though you can advance at your own pace, active Scouts will usually earn First Class within a year of joining a troop.

Earning badges can be very satisfying. However, badges are not the most important part of Scouting. Of greater value is what the badges represent. The skills you master, the wisdom you gain, and the experiences you enjoy are what really count. The merit badge program provides you the opportunity to meet and work with adult leaders in your community. It also introduces you to potential new hobbies and vocations.*

*From the Boy Scout Handbook

