

Advancement in Camp



Scouts should become familiar with the requirements of each merit badge they want to work on by reading the merit badge pamphlet prior to camp. Scouts who have requested merit badges with prerequisites should have them completed before arriving at camp. To have a successful experience in the merit badge program, your Scouts must begin on Monday and stick with it for the full week. Some merit badges can be completed during the camp period; however, others have requirements for observation, tests, and/or record-keeping extending over a longer period. Scouts should have a merit badge book for each merit badge they begin. Scouts who do not have the book may purchase one at the Trading Post. Merit badge worksheets are not provided by camp.

We have a program specifically designed for the first year Scout, the Pathfinders Program. The first year Scout should try no more than two merit badges and one of these should be a handi-craft merit badge.

Experience shows that camp is not an ideal classroom for written work. Some merit badges have advanced preparation work that should be done at home and not at camp. The smart Scout comes to camp prepared for the merit badges he plans to take. Scouts who have completed part of the requirements for a merit badge should bring a partial blue card from their counselor so that they may have the opportunity to complete the remaining requirements at camp. Leaders should develop a master list of each Scouts' advancement schedule and review the program area tracking sheets posted daily in the Scoutmaster's Lounge. By reviewing and tracking your Scouts' progress, problems can be detected and resolved early which will help your Scouts have the best opportunity to complete their merit badges.

❗ Please take the time to review all blue cards prior to leaving camp at the end of the week. No changes to tracking sheets will be made once summer camp closes.

Pathfinders Program

Class Location: Webelos Shelter

Your Scouts will remain in Scouting longer and enjoy Scouting more if they become First Class Scouts within their first year with your troop. Our first year Scout program is specially designed for those who are new to Scouting, particularly those right out of Webelos. It teaches them basic Scouting skills, while introducing them to Scouting and Fire Mountain Scout Camp. They will also learn:

- 1) Scout Spirit and Ecology Knowledge;
- 2) Basic Scout Skills;
- 3) Physical Fitness; and
- 4) Aquatics.

Make sure that your new Scout understands that participation in this track will occupy half of his day. Pathfinders activities include:

- ★ Totin' Chip instruction;
- ★ Firem'n Chit instruction;
- ★ Knots and Lashings;
- ★ Map and Compass;
- ★ Hiking;
- ★ First Aid Merit Badge;
- ★ Plant and Animal Identification; and
- ★ Scout Spirit.



The Pathfinders Program is staff-led and instructed by adult troop leadership. Boys participating should bring their Boy Scout Handbook with them to camp. A Pathfinders Scout is encouraged to only take one or two (at the most) merit badges during the half day he is not at Pathfinders. Adults should encourage new Scouts to explore the many program areas offered at camp. Fire Mountain Scout Camp recommends new Scouts

carefully select their merit badges. We recommend they choose any of the basic badges in Handi-Crafts, Ecology/Conservation, or Aquatics.