

The Road to First Class is the On Ramp to Serving Others

When a boy joins Boy Scouts, he is embarking on a life long journey. He is learning how to help others in his community both near and far. He will become both a leader and a contributor. On his trail to Eagle, the Scout will earn 7 ranks. Each rank builds upon the previous rank. The first ranks from joining to First Class are designed to teach the Scout the technical skills of Scouting. These skills include how to participate in a group and how to be self-reliant. A quote attributed to Baden-Powell says "We must change boys from a 'what I can get' to a 'what can I give attitude'". Starting with the First Class rank, the Scout learns about service to others.

When a boy joins Boy Scouts, he starts as a Scout. The Scout Rank is an introduction to Scouting. The Scout learns the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Scout Motto which are the foundation of Scouting. The Scout also learns how the troop functions with its leaders and patrols along with learning to tie knots. The next rank awarded to the Scout is Tenderfoot.

The Tenderfoot Rank is an introduction to the outdoors. The Scout learns how to prepare to live outside during a campout. These skills include the necessary items for camping and how to carry them. The Scout also is taught how to provide simple first aid, how to cook outdoors and the importance of the buddy system so the Scout can remain safe. The Scout is introduced to leadership skills at this rank.

Awarded Second Class Rank builds on the Tenderfoot Rank by teaching the Scout more skills. The Second Class Scout is given more responsibility as he learns to build fires, navigate in the outdoors and is taught "Leave No Trace". This rank teaches the Scout to identify animals in the wild and to improve his fitness. The Scout continues to learn what a good citizen is and having good Scout Spirit. The final rank in the "Road to First Class" is the First Class Rank.

The First Class Rank completes learning technical skills of Scouting. The Scout knows how to survive, cook and navigate outdoors. The Scout has been taught about aquatics, first aid, fitness and citizenship. He knows about leadership and Scout Spirit. Completing this rank allows the Scout to begin learning service to others.

Lastly, a quote by Baden-Powell says "The real way to gain happiness is to give it to others". As the Scout progresses on the trail to Eagle with First Class Rank and beyond, he will be learning how to help others and thus helping them gain happiness. When a Scout completes the First Class Rank he will be entering the main highway to a life of being of service to others as he continues to gain experience and knowledge on the trail to Eagle.