

Advancement Requirement Comments and Interpretations

Many rank and merit badge requirements are subject to interpretation. This is a work-in-progress attempt to standardize Troop 92's interpretation of those requirements. It is **not** an attempt to cast that interpretation into stone; it is subject to change as our collective opinions, knowledge, and interpretations change.

General

If a requirement calls out that a particular action must be part of a Scout activity, it must be part of a Scout activity. If it does **not** call out that it must be part of a Scout activity, then it need not be.

Remember that "show" and "demonstrate" do not mean "describe" or "explain".

A Scout is Trustworthy. While verification is desirable, if a Scout says he's done some particular thing, he should be believed.

"approved" means "approved in advance".

Time

Time-in-rank requirements are measured from and to the Board of Review for the rank. Time may be deducted for significant periods (more than a month) of inactivity.

Time-in-position-of-responsibility requirements are measured from and to the Court of Honor at which the appointment takes effect, or such other date as may be appropriate. Time may be deducted for inadequate performance, with reasonable notice to the Scout.

Positions of Responsibility

Star, Life, and Eagle require that the Scout "serve actively" in a specified position of responsibility. What "serving actively" means varies from position to position, but it does not mean simply wearing the patch. BSA publication 33088 "Guide to Advancement", in section 4.2.3.4.3 and 4.2.3.4.4, says that if the troop has established expectations for the position, the Scouts must "within reason" meet those expectations. If no expectations have been established, the Scout must make a reasonable effort to determine what must be done, and must perform accordingly. See the Troop 92 "PORs" document for 92's expectations for the various positions.

In a nutshell, the Scout must have a reasonable answer to the question "so, what did you do for the troop during that time?".

Service Projects

It is preferred, but not required, that service projects be associated with Scouting.

Service projects must be approved in advance by the Scoutmaster or designate.

Mere attendance is not sufficient; the Scout must participate usefully.

How literally should “project” be interpreted? Must the activity have a defined goal and endpoint? Would, for instance, serving at a soup kitchen qualify? My interpretation: any useful service is acceptable: working at a soup kitchen, helping with day camp, et cetera.

Service projects must be logged in the Service Projects section of the handbook.

Scout Spirit

For the lower ranks, the “demonstrate Scout spirit” requirements are satisfied through enumeration of specific acts; only in egregious cases would approval be deferred based on other behavior.

For the upper ranks, there is no explicit enumeration requirement. It’s not clear to me how the decision is to be made, especially since “everyday life” means time *outside* Scouts. However, if the Scout is not living up to the standards at troop meetings and events, it’s reasonable to infer that he does not live up to them in everyday life.

[I’m not happy with this yet. It would be nice to require enthusiastic participation to meet these requirements... not merely a few specific acts and lack of egregiously bad behavior.]

Even with egregiously bad behavior, approval cannot be deferred forever if the behavior is corrected. (In other words, behavior that is not sufficient for expulsion will eventually be forgiven.) It may be appropriate to specify a probationary period, probably on a case-by-case basis, e.g. “I’m not going to sign off on this until you’ve managed to keep your language clean for three months straight”.

Note that for the lower ranks the enumerated acts should be distinct and should represent distinct points of the Scout Oath and Law.

Scoutmaster Conference

A Scoutmaster conference is not a retest. While the SM may ask about particular requirements, it is more in the nature of a refresher than a retest; it is acceptable (though undesirable) for the Scout to need re-instruction.

[What equipment should the Scout bring, to be prepared to demonstrate the skills learned? One might say “all of it”, but that could be a pretty large list. For First class: compass, map, rope, poles (for lashings), large bandages. Remember, this isn’t a retest.]

Although Scoutmaster Conferences are not formally required to be the last requirement completed (other than the Board of Review), that is the tradition. The Scout should arrive at the Scoutmaster conference with all requirements other than time-in-rank, time-in-position, merit badges, Scout spirit, Scoutmaster conference, and Board of Review signed off. [Might start delegating some of that – in particular, time-in-position.]

Issues

Generally we have allowed demonstration of a skill to immediately follow instruction on that skill – basically, if you successfully tie the knot once on your own, you’ve done it. While that arguably meets the letter of the requirements, it does not seem to meet the spirit – quite probably, you won’t be able to do it again the next day. Perhaps we should apply a stricter standard. Some troops require that you demonstrate the skill a week after being taught it.

Changes to Requirements

From the Guide to Advancement (33088-2011):

4.0.0.1 Changes to Requirements

Advancement requirements change from time to time. For Boy Scouting and Varsity Scouting, check the latest annual edition of Boy Scout Requirements, No. 34765. Changes usually appear first in a revised handbook, and then become effective the next January 1 and are published in the requirements book. Unless otherwise stated there, or in the member handbook, the following options are allowed.

- If members have already started on a rank, Eagle Palm, or Venturing award when a revision is introduced, they may switch to the new requirements or continue with the old ones until it is completed.
- If members have not already started on a rank, they may use the new requirements; or, if work begins before the end of the current year, they may use the old requirements to complete the badge.

So, what does “already started on” mean, when you’re allowed to work on Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class requirements simultaneously, and you can be receiving merit badges that are needed for Star, Life, and Eagle? Answer: You have “started on” your next rank. You have not “started on” any ranks after that.

Need to figure out how to represent changes in this document, since we might need to check against different versions for different Scouts.

Scout

- 1. Meet the age requirements. Be a boy who is 11 years old, or one who has completed the fifth grade or earned the Arrow of Light Award and is at least 10 years old, but is not yet 18 years old.***

A potential Scout who does not meet these requirements can be included in troop activities as a recruit.

NEEDS WORK: Need to understand the formal paperwork requirements. This seems more like a policy issue than an advancement issue. [RP notes: Note: I believe our practice has been that someone who doesn’t meet these requirements has to have a parent at all activities – including our regular meetings.]

[I think it's more precisely "who hasn't submitted an application", which might be that plus a few more.
– JB]

2. Find a Scout troop near your home. (To find a troop, contact your local Boy Scout Council. The Council name, address and phone number can be found on BSA's Council Locator Page.)

3. Complete a Boy Scout application and health history signed by your parent or guardian.

Health history means the BSA Annual Health and Medical Report, parts A and B. (Part C will be required for summer camp and some strenuous activities.)

4. Repeat the Pledge of Allegiance.

Scout must repeat the Pledge in its entirety from memory without prompting.

5. Demonstrate the Scout sign, salute, and handshake.

Sign: Shoulder and elbow at right angle.

Salute: fingertips touch outside of right eyebrow

Handshake: contrary to popular belief, the Scout handshake consists of a standard handshake done with the left hand, with no special finger positions. (Look at the picture in the Handbook. It changed in 1972.)

6. Demonstrate tying the square knot (a joining knot).

Scout should complete the knot quickly and confidently, without prompting.

7. Understand and agree to live by the Scout Oath or Promise, Law, motto, and slogan, and the Outdoor Code.

It is not required that the Scout repeat these from memory – see the Tenderfoot requirements. The Scout must understand the meanings of the various items.

8. Describe the Scout badge.

Shape: Top half is the north point of a compass. A Scout is able to point the right way in life.

Three points: Duty to God & Country, Duty to Others, Duty to Self.

Eagle and Shield: National emblem of the US, stands for freedom and a Scout's readiness to defend that freedom.

Stars: Truth and Knowledge. Guide you by night and suggest a Scout's outdoor life.

Scroll: Ends turned up in a smile as a Scout does his duty. Scout motto (Be Prepared) across scroll.

Knot: Represents Scout slogan: Do a Good Turn Daily.

9. Complete the pamphlet exercises. With your parent or guardian, complete the exercises in the pamphlet "How to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide".

Scout and parent must affirm that they have done this. The preferred way to record the parent's affirmation is through initials and date next to the requirement.

10. Participate in a Scoutmaster conference. Turn in your Boy Scout application and health history form signed by your parent or guardian, then participate in a Scoutmaster conference.

Scout must telephone the SM to make an appointment. Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings are preferred. Friday, Saturday, and Sunday are available if necessary. SM conferences are not available on Mondays or on campouts.

Tenderfoot

1. Present yourself to your leader, properly dressed, before going on an overnight camping trip. Show the camping gear you will use. Show the right way to pack and carry it.

This normally occurs at the start of a camping trip. There is no requirement for any particular list of items or for any particular packing style, only that critical items (sleeping bag, mess kit, sack dinner) are present and that the packing is neat and practical (not in shopping bags, not with pieces hanging out, et cetera). **TODO: update packing list to show absolute minimums.**

The Scout must **present** himself **before** the trip. It is not acceptable to ask for this signoff after the fact.

There is no requirement that this be for a Scout camping trip, but as for a Scout trip the Scout must have his personal gear packed separately, not mingled into family gear.

NEEDSWORK: We ask that they travel in Class A. Should this requirement include a uniform inspection?

2. Spend at least one night on a patrol or troop campout. Sleep in a tent you have helped pitch.

Campouts must be logged in the Campout section of the Handbook.

3. On the campout, assist in preparing and cooking one of your patrol's meals. Tell why it is important for each patrol member to share in meal preparation and cleanup, and explain the importance of eating together.

4.

a. Demonstrate how to whip and fuse the ends of a rope.

Quickly and confidently, without prompting.

b. Demonstrate you know how to tie the following knots and tell what their uses are: two half hitches and the taut-line hitch.

Quickly and confidently, without prompting.

c. Using the EDGE method, teach another person how to tie the square knot.

The other person should preferably be a Scout candidate, but a younger sibling or friend is acceptable. The person must not know how to do the knot. Having an adult pretend to not know how to do the knot is not acceptable.

NEEDSWORK: How do we verify this? Accept their assertion? Have the other person demonstrate for a leader? An adult? How do we verify that they used EDGE?

Rationale: Some have said that “teach” refers only to the process of presenting the material, not to whether or not the putative student learned the material, and so “teaching” somebody who already knows the material is acceptable. By this interpretation, one could “teach” the material to a wooden post. However, “teaching” a post or someone who already knows the material does not demonstrate that one can actually impart the knowledge, and in Merriam-Webster’s definition of “teach” the #1 entry is “to cause to know something”.

5. *Explain the rules of safe hiking, both on the highway and cross-country, during the day and at night. Explain what to do if you are lost.*
6. *Demonstrate how to display, raise, lower, and fold the American flag.*

NEEDSWORK: We need an unmounted demonstration flag for this purpose. How do they demonstrate raising and lowering without a flagpole? Maybe we should start using a flagpole on campouts, instead of carrying mounted flags. Note that VFW has a flagpole; we should schedule regular or as-needed sessions there.

7. *Repeat from memory and explain in your own words the Scout Oath, Law, motto, and slogan.*

Each in their entirety, without prompting.

8. *Know your patrol name, give the patrol yell, and describe your patrol flag.*

We don’t have any patrol flags. We should get on that. Also: to which patrol does this refer? A Tenderfoot candidate is a member of the Road Runners. Perhaps they need to know the information for the patrol to which they will be assigned? But are we ready to assign them at that point?

Deleted: We only have one patrol flag, and that one incomplete, and I don’t know whether we have any patrol yells.

We should write down our patrol yells.

9. *Explain the importance of the buddy system as it relates to your personal safety on outings and in your neighborhood. Describe what a bully is and how you should respond to one.*
- 10.

a. *Record your best in the following tests:*

- *Push-ups*
- *Pull-ups*
- *Sit-ups*
- *Standing long jump*
- *1/4 mile walk/run*

b. *Show improvement in the activities listed in requirement 10a after practicing for 30 days.*

Should we require improvement in at least one area, or in every area? Requiring improvement in all areas (no matter how small) is much more challenging but seems to meet the intent better. Suggestion: Require improvement in at least three of the five items.

11. Identify local poisonous plants; tell how to treat for exposure to them.

Not clear whether this means “point them out in the wild” or “enumerate and describe them”. I believe we’ve used “enumerate and describe”, which is perhaps not strict enough. Suggestion: point out one in the wild – probably poison oak. (But how many Scouts can get this on one outing? Do they each need to find their own patch?) Describe others, in particular stinging nettles.

12.

- a. Demonstrate how to care for someone who is choking.**
- b. Show first aid for the following:**
 - Simple cuts and scrapes**

Emphasize direct pressure!

- Blisters on the hand and foot**
- Minor (thermal/heat) burns or scalds (superficial, or first degree)**
- Bites and stings of insects and ticks**
- Venomous snakebite**

Not cut-and-suck!

- Nosebleed**
- Frostbite and sunburn**

Emphasize prevention: treatment is for when prevention fails.

- 13. Demonstrate Scout spirit by living the Scout Oath (Promise) and Scout Law in your everyday life. Discuss four specific examples of how you have lived the points of the Scout Law in your daily life.**
- 14. Participate in a Scoutmaster conference.**
- 15. Complete your board of review.**

Second Class

1.

- a. Demonstrate how a compass works and how to orient a map. Explain what map symbols mean.**

Needs to cover a **topographic** map, not just any map. Road maps are not good enough; neither are maps of Disneyland.

- b. Using a compass and a map together, take a five-mile hike (or 10 miles by bike) approved by your adult leader and your parent or guardian.***

Note that this hike is **not** required to be part of a Scout activity. However, it **does** require advance approval by an adult leader. Preferably, the Scout should do the navigating on the hike. At a minimum, he should participate in the navigation. If the Scout is navigating then, within reason, the Scout should be allowed to make mistakes, hike extra distance, get lost, and recover.

- 2. Discuss the principles of Leave No Trace.**

3.

- a. *Since joining, have participated in five separate troop/patrol activities (other than troop/patrol meetings), two of which included camping overnight.*

General rule: Anything other than a regular meeting, or a direct replacement for a regular meeting, counts.

Deleted: Monday evening

Specific examples:

- Monthly PLC meetings – no
- Quarterly Courts of Honor – no (even if scheduled on a non-Monday)
- Eagle Courts – yes
- Merit Badge Midways – no
- Activities organized by other bodies (e.g. community clean-up projects) may count if the troop participates, e.g. if a leader says “we’re going to...”, troop leaders attend, and the troop coordinates attendance.

Deleted: Quarterly Courts of Honor, even if scheduled on a non-Monday, do not count.

Use common sense. In general, err on the side of accepting the event.

When it seems appropriate, leaders should explicitly say “this is not a troop event, but...”.

All events must be logged. Campouts and service projects must be logged in their respective sections of the handbook. Suggest that other events be logged in the Campout section with zero nights and an appropriate comment.

- b. *On one of these campouts, select your patrol site and sleep in a tent that you pitched. Explain what factors you should consider when choosing a patrol site and where to pitch a tent.*

One or more Scouts propose sites to meet this requirement. PL, in coordination with SPL and other PLs, chooses which of the proposed sites to use, explaining the rationale used. Pitching the tent with a buddy is acceptable.

Deleted: Does this mean that only one Scout per patrol can fulfill this requirement per campout? Or does “select” mean “participate in the selection of”?

Ref: <http://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2012/06/07/ask-the-expert-interpreting-camping-merit-badge-requirement-9a/>

- c. *Demonstrate proper care, sharpening, and use of the knife, saw, and ax, and describe when they should be used.*

Note that the requirements here seem to closely match the requirements for the Totin’ Chip.

NEEDSWORK: Need to decide whether one covers the other.

Deleted: Is it required that the Scout pitch the tent alone? (Suggestion: No, a partner is acceptable. Perhaps it would be acceptable to require that it be done alone for this requirement, since it’s a one-time thing, but for the similarly-phrased Camping MB requirement it seems unreasonable to demand that all 20 nights be in tents the Scout pitched alone.)¶

- d. *Use the tools listed in requirement 3c to prepare tinder, kindling, and fuel for a cooking fire.*

Note: We might occasionally do a no-propane campout, where we do all cooking over a campfire.

- e. Discuss when it is appropriate to use a cooking fire and a lightweight stove. Discuss the safety procedures for using both. (replaced in 2013)**

We assume that “lightweight stove” includes both car-camping Coleman-style stoves and backpacking stoves.

- f. In an approved place and at an approved time, demonstrate how to build a fire and set up a lightweight stove. Note: Lighting the fire is not required. (replaced in 2013)**

Lighting the fire, managing it, and putting it out are all very desirable even if not formally required. Note that the requirement here appears to closely match the Firem’n Chit requirements. **NEEDSWORK: Need to decide whether one covers the other.**

- e. Explain when it is appropriate to use a cooking fire. At an approved outdoor location and at an approved time, and using the tinder, kindling, and fuel wood from requirement 3d, demonstrate how to build a fire; light the fire, unless prohibited by local fire restrictions. After allowing the flames to burn safely for at least two minutes, safely extinguish the flames with minimal impact to the fire site. (new in 2013)**

Note that the requirement here appears to closely match the Firem’n Chit requirements. **NEEDSWORK: Need to decide whether one covers the other.**

- f. Explain when it is appropriate to use a lightweight stove or propane stove. Set up a lightweight stove or propane stove; light the stove, unless prohibited by local fire restrictions. Describe the safety procedures for using these types of stoves. (new in 2013)**
- g. On one campout, plan and cook one hot breakfast or lunch, selecting foods from the MyPlate food guide pyramid or the current USDA nutrition model. Explain the importance of good nutrition. Tell how to transport, store, and prepare the foods you selected.**

Note the “hot” requirement. Sandwiches don’t count. Simply adding hot water (e.g. to Cup-of-Noodles or dehydrated backpacking food) is not considered “cooking”. Boiling hot dogs barely counts. Grilling or roasting hot dogs counts. Marshmallows and s’mores are not meals.

- 4. Participate in a flag ceremony for your school, religious institution, chartered organization, community, or troop activity. Explain to your leader what respect is due the flag of the United States.**

Note “participate”, not “attend”. Must be caller or a member of the color guard.

- 5. Participate in an approved (minimum of one hour) service project.**

See notes above about service projects.

6. Identify or show evidence of at least 10 kinds of wild animals (birds, mammals, reptiles, fish, mollusks) found in your community.

Point out in the wild, not merely enumerate and describe. (If a group sees an animal, does only one Scout get credit for it?) Zoos and pets do not count; animal must be free. What level of precision? "bird" is insufficient, "owl" is sufficient, "Barn Owl" is excellent, *Tyto alba* is stunning.

When showing evidence, use judgement – some evidence may be readily identifiable, while other evidence may be precisely identifiable only by an expert. Some examples:

- Tracks: deer, snake, bird
- Droppings: Coyote, deer, rabbit, owl (pellets). (Generic bird droppings?)
- Nests - ?
- Burrows – maybe. Generic "burrow" doesn't seem like enough, and beyond that how identifiable are they? NEEDSWORK
- Fur, feathers, shed skins -- ?
- Noises? Rattlesnake, yes. Coyote, yes. Owl, yes. Generic "bird", no.
- Fossils - ?

Note: Horses and dogs are not wild animals so they, their tracks, and their droppings don't count. On the other hand, coyote droppings do count (and are generally readily identifiable).

Roadkill counts.

All organisms in Animalia count. The list enumerated in the requirement is interpreted to be a list of examples, not an exhaustive list. (Rationale: including insects seems useful, and excluding amphibians seems nonsensical.)

7.

- a. **Show what to do for "hurry" cases of stopped breathing, serious bleeding, and ingested poisoning.**
- b. **Prepare a personal first aid kit to take with you on a hike.**

NEEDSWORK: Say something here about required/expected contents. Handbook has a list.

- c. **Demonstrate first aid for the following:**
 - **Object in the eye**
 - **Bite of a suspected rabid animal**
 - **Puncture wounds from a splinter, nail, and fishhook**
 - **Serious burns (partial thickness, or second-degree)**
 - **Heat exhaustion**
 - **Shock**

Deleted: for instance, some tracks are readily identifiable and should be identified reasonably precisely, while others (e.g. snake) may not be precisely identifiable.

- **Heatstroke, dehydration, hypothermia, and hyperventilation**

Emphasize prevention!

8.
 - a. ***Tell what precautions must be taken for a safe swim.***
 - b. ***Demonstrate your ability to jump feet-first into water over your head in depth, level off and swim 25 feet on the surface, stop, turn sharply, resume swimming, then return to your starting place.***
 - c. ***Demonstrate water rescue methods by reaching with your arm or leg, by reaching with a suitable object, and by throwing lines and objects. Explain why swimming rescues should not be attempted when a reaching or throwing rescue is possible, and explain why and how a rescue swimmer should avoid contact with the victim.***

It is best if 8b and 8c are done at Summer Camp; while it may be practical to do them “in town”, doing so will require an appropriate venue, supervision, and instruction. These Second Class requirements might be practical to fulfill in a backyard or public pool, but the First Class requirements will be quite difficult to fulfill.

9.
 - a. ***Participate in a school, community, or troop program on the dangers of using drugs, alcohol, and tobacco, and other practices that could be harmful to your health. Discuss your participation in the program with your family, and explain the dangers of substance addictions.***

Note that it is not required that the program is associated with Scouting; most Scouts will do these programs at school., The Scout’s assertion that he has participated in such a program and discussed it with his family is sufficient.

- b. ***Explain the three R's of personal safety and protection.***
10. ***Earn an amount of money agreed upon by you and your parent, then save at least 50 percent of that money.***

How much? How long? How long do you have to “save” it before you spend it? Heck if I know.

Suggestion: document a goal (≥\$40 earned, ≥\$20 saved) beforehand, then achieve that goal.

11. ***Demonstrate Scout spirit by living the Scout Oath (Promise) and Scout Law in your everyday life. Discuss four specific examples (different from those used for Tenderfoot requirement 13) of how you have lived the points of the Scout Law in your daily life.***
12. ***Participate in a Scoutmaster conference.***
13. ***Complete your board of review.***

First Class

1. ***Demonstrate how to find directions during the day and at night without using a compass.***

“Demonstrate”, not “explain”.

- 2. Using a map and compass, complete an orienteering course that covers at least one mile and requires measuring the height and/or width of designated items (tree, tower, canyon, ditch, etc.)**

The easiest ways to fulfill this requirement are (a) at summer camp, or (b) by attending an orienteering event, such as those held by the Los Angeles Orienteering Club. Orienteering events will require a separate measuring exercise.

- 3. Since joining, have participated in 10 separate troop/patrol activities (other than troop/patrol meetings), three of which included camping overnight. Demonstrate the principles of Leave No Trace on these outings.**

All events must be logged. Campouts and service projects must be logged in their respective sections of the handbook. Other events should be logged in the Campout section with zero nights and an appropriate comment.

- 4.**
 - a. Help plan a patrol menu for one campout that includes at least one breakfast, one lunch, and one dinner, and that requires cooking at least two of the meals. Tell how the menu includes the foods from the [MyPlate food pyramid guide](#) or the [current USDA nutrition model](#) and meets nutritional needs.**
 - b. Using the menu planned in requirement 4a, make a list showing the cost and food amounts needed to feed three or more boys and secure the ingredients.**

“Secure the ingredients” means “go shopping or get them from somebody’s kitchen”.

- c. Tell which pans, utensils, and other gear will be needed to cook and serve these meals.**
- d. Explain the procedures to follow in the safe handling and storage of fresh meats, dairy products, eggs, vegetables, and other perishable food products. Tell how to properly dispose of camp garbage, cans, plastic containers, and other rubbish.**
- e. On one campout, serve as your patrol's cook. Supervise your assistant(s) in using a stove or building a cooking fire. Prepare the breakfast, lunch, and dinner planned in requirement 4a. Lead your patrol in saying grace at the meals and supervise cleanup.**

Note that it is not required that the Scout do all of the cooking and cleanup; he can supervise.

- 5. Visit and discuss with a selected individual approved by your leader (elected official, judge, attorney, civil servant, principal, teacher) your constitutional rights and obligations as a U.S. citizen.**

A note from the visited person is desirable but not absolutely required. Again, “approved” means “approved in advance”.

- 6. Identify or show evidence of at least 10 kinds of native plants found in your community.**

"Point out in the wild", not "enumerate and describe". What level of precision? "tree" is insufficient, "oak" is sufficient, "Coast Live Oak" is excellent, *Quercus agrifolia* is stunning. Interpret "native" as "living in the wild"; mustard and eucalyptus count. (Gardens and city park plants don't count.)

7.

- a. **Discuss when you should and should not use lashings. Then demonstrate tying the timber hitch and clove hitch and their use in square, shear, and diagonal lashings by joining two or more poles or staves together.**

Quickly and confidently.

- b. **Use lashing to make a useful camp gadget.**

There is no requirement that this be done on a campout.

8.

- a. **Demonstrate tying the bowline knot and describe several ways it can be used.**

Quickly and confidently.

- b. **Demonstrate bandages for a sprained ankle and for injuries on the head, the upper arm, and the collarbone.**
- c. **Show how to transport by yourself, and with one other person, a person:**
 - **From a smoke-filled room**
 - **With a sprained ankle, for at least 25 yards**
- d. **Tell the five most common signs of a heart attack. Explain the steps (procedures) in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).**

9.

- a. **Tell what precautions must be taken for a safe trip afloat.**
- b. **Successfully complete the BSA swimmer test.***
- c. **With a helper and a practice victim, show a line rescue both as tender and as rescuer. (The practice victim should be approximately 30 feet from shore in deep water.)**

As with the 2nd Class requirements, these – especially 9c – are easiest done at summer camp.

10. **Tell someone who is eligible to join Boy Scouts, or an inactive Boy Scout, about your troop's activities. Invite him to a troop outing, activity, service project, or meeting. Tell him how to join, or encourage the inactive Boy Scout to become active.**

This does not require anything more than it says – telling somebody about Scouts, and inviting them to a troop event. It does not require that they attend. A Scout's assertion that he has done this is sufficient, because a Scout is Trustworthy.

11. **Describe the three things you should avoid doing related to the use of the Internet. Describe a cyberbully and how you should respond to one.**
12. **Demonstrate Scout spirit by living the Scout Oath (Promise) and Scout Law in your everyday life. Discuss four specific examples (different from those used in Tenderfoot**

requirement 13 and Second Class requirement 11) of how you have lived the points of the Scout Law in your daily life.

13. Participate in a Scoutmaster conference.

14. Complete your board of review.

Star

See notes above about time, positions of responsibility, and service projects.

Note that most Star requirements (all but merit badges) are “as a First Class Scout” and so it is not possible to work on these requirements before reaching First Class.

Life

See notes above about time, positions of responsibility, and service projects.

Note that most Life requirements (all but merit badges) are “as a Star Scout” and so it is not possible to work on these requirements before reaching Star.

6. While a Star Scout, use the EDGE method to teach a younger Scout the skills from ONE of the following seven choices, so that he is prepared to pass those requirements to his unit leader's satisfaction. [...]

Completing this requirement must tie directly to the younger Scout completing the requirement described. For this requirement to be signed off, the Scouts should be able to show a signoff in the younger Scout's book, and the Scouts must agree that the Star Scout contributed substantially to the training and used the EDGE method.

Eagle

Eagle is a process all its own. Careful attention to the various Eagle paperwork – notably the Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project Workbook and the Eagle Scout Rank Application – is absolutely required. The district must approve Eagle project proposals, and the final Board of Review is with the district, not the troop.

Merit Badges

Generally, merit badges are handled by the merit badge counselors. However, troop leadership may occasionally be asked to verify that a requirement has been met. Here are some specific notes.

Camping

7.b. Pack your own gear and your share of the patrol equipment and food for proper carrying. Show that your pack is right for quickly getting what is needed first, and that it has been assembled properly for comfort, weight, balance, size, and neatness.

Since the Camping merit badge does not require backpacking, I don't understand how this is different from Tenderfoot requirement #1.

9.a. Camp a total of at least 20 days and 20 nights. Sleep each night under the sky or in a tent you have pitched. The 20 days and 20 nights must be at a designated Scouting activity or event. You may use a week of long-term camp toward this requirement. If the camp provides a tent that has already been pitched, you need not pitch your own tent. *(replaced in 2012)*

Note the requirement that these days and nights be at a Scouting event.

One week-long long-term camp is generally 6 nights and two partial days. Two such trips can be used for 7 days and nights; the second trip can only contribute one day and night before reaching the "week of long-term camp" limit.

For these purposes, days and nights are mostly equivalent, since any given night is normally associated with either a full day or two partial days. A Friday-afternoon to Sunday morning trip counts as two days and two nights.

Pitching the tent with a buddy is acceptable.

9.a. Camp a total of at least 20 nights at designated Scouting activities or events. One long-term camping experience of up to six consecutive nights may be applied toward this requirement. Sleep each night under the sky or in a tent you have pitched. If the camp provides a tent that has already been pitched, you need not pitch your own tent. *(new in 2012)*

This revision simplifies the picture: one summer camp is usable, and you only need to count nights, not days.

Ref: <http://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2012/06/07/ask-the-expert-interpreting-camping-merit-badge-requirement-9a/>

9.b. On any of these camping experiences, you must do TWO of the following, only with proper preparation and under qualified supervision:

Note that these must be in conjunction with a Scout campout.

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Deleted: Is it required that the Scout pitch the tent alone? (Suggestion: No, a partner is acceptable.)¶

9.b.1. Hike up a mountain, gaining at least 1,000 vertical feet.

There is no requirement to reach the peak, only to climb 1,000 vertical feet. A canyon or start-at-the-top hike would count as long as the climb out is 1,000 vertical feet. Use maps or altitude markers to determine the amount of climb; do not estimate. I don't think a series of hills (e.g. crossing a ridge and then returning) that total to 1,000 feet would count; I think you must reach a high point 1,000 feet above your low point.

9.b.2. Backpack, snowshoe, or cross-country ski for at least 4 miles.

Need only be as part of a single event, not necessarily in one segment or even one day. That is, a backpacking trip that traveled three miles each on two days would be adequate.

9.b.3. Take a bike trip of at least 15 miles or at least four hours.

9.b.4. Take a nonmotorized trip on the water of at least four hours or 5 miles.

Note "nonmotorized". Canoe, kayak, rowboat, sail, raft. Ferry to Catalina is not sufficient. Need only be as part of a single event, not necessarily in one segment or even one day. Emerald Bay War Canoe is not sufficient; it is only about 3.2 miles and 2 hours round trip.

Other

Totin’ Chip

NEEDSWORK: Relationship to 2C#3c?

Firem’n Chit

NEEDSWORK: Relationship to 2C#3e,3f?