



## New Boy Scout Requirements for 2016

To Scoutmasters and Troop Advancement Chairs:

BSA National posted extensive changes to all the Boy Scout requirements from Scout to Star. A PDF with the new requirements was posted along with a handy side-by-side comparison to previous requirements. Google this subject line:

2016 Boy Scout Requirements - Boy Scouts of America

The new requirements take effect on January 1, 2016, but, as usual, there is a "grandfathered" grace period for Scouts who are partway through working on a rank. For details, Google this subject line:

Transitioning to the 2016 Boy Scout Requirements

### Summary of the changes:

#### Scout Rank:

- "Scout" used to be a set of 9 "joining" requirements resulting in a brown silhouette badge. "Scout" is now a full-fledged rank with lots of requirements resulting in a new gold colored silhouette badge.
- Although Scout is now a genuine rank, no Board of Review is required.
- A few of the new Scout requirements were shifted away from Tenderfoot. A requirement about pocketknife safety was shifted away from Second Class.
- One new Scout requirement is to earn a Cyber Chip.
- Previously new boys learned about Scout ranks and merit badges with what amounted to on-the-job training. Now they must formally learn about those topics.
- In addition to learning to tie a square knot, two more knots were added.

#### Tenderfoot:

- There are now more requirements needed to reach Tenderfoot. Several brand new requirements were added. A few old ones were shifted from Second Class to Tenderfoot, and a few others were shifted from Tenderfoot down to Scout rank.
- The requirement to assist with camping meal preparation and to tell why eating together is important was dropped altogether. Instead, the Scout is now expected to help with the cleanup and the dishes.
- One new first aid-related requirement is how to prevent injuries. Another is to make your own first aid kit (shifted from Second Class).
- The Tenderfoot physical test was altered by dropping the standing long jump, by adding a stretch test (as found in the Personal Fitness merit badge), and by extending the walk/run from ¼ mile to a full mile.
- As before, the Scout must take a second physical test 30 days after the first. However, after the first is done, he must develop a plan for improvement and keep track of progress (again from Personal Fitness).
- The Scout must now participate in a service project and then talk about it.

#### Second Class:

- There are now many more requirements needed to reach Second Class. Many brand new requirements were added. A few old ones were shifted from Second Class to Tenderfoot and to Scout rank, and a few others were shifted from First Class down to Second Class.
- "Leave No Trace" used to be half Second Class and half First Class (explain + demonstrate). It's now all Second Class.
- The fire-building requirement now also calls for dousing the fire.
- Two knots were added: the Sheet Bend and the Bowline (shifted from First Class).

- The requirement to find north without a compass (shifted from First Class) now specifically excludes use of a smart phone.
- One new first aid-related requirement is how to prevent injuries. Another is to get familiar with back-country first aid.
- The physical tests needed for Tenderfoot were extended by another 30 days into Second Class. The Scout must also develop a plan for daily fitness activity.
- The classroom DARE (or equivalent) requirement is still there, but is now supplemented by a new requirement to discuss what was learned.
- The requirement to earn money at home is still there, but is now supplemented by a target purchase and comparison shopping (as found in the Personal Management merit badge).
- The requirement about bullying and cyber-bullying was shifted down from First Class.

### **First Class:**

- There are now many more requirements needed to reach First Class. Many brand new requirements were added. A few old ones were shifted from First Class down to Second Class.
- A new requirement is to explain the five principles of "Tread Lightly," where the letters T-R-E-A-D form a mnemonic. Some of the five overlap with the principles of Leave No Trace.
- The map-and-compass orienteering requirement is still there but has been supplemented by a new requirement to ensure that the Scout can use a GPS device.
- A set of three new requirements were introduced having to do with hazardous weather conditions (as found in the adult leader "Weather Hazards" online training module).
- Two new requirements were added to ensure familiarity with canoes and rowboats and kayaks, etc.
- Three new requirements were added to ensure familiarity with emergency situations such as Hurricane Sandy (as found in the Emergency Preparedness merit badge).
- The physical tests needed for Tenderfoot and Second Class were extended into First Class for another four weeks, including tracking.
- The Scout must select and investigate some environmental issue.
- The Scout must go on two outings in the form of before-and-after. He must first specifically pay attention to garbage and trash and then come up with a plan to reduce or recycle to be applied during the second outing (as found in the Leave No Trace guidelines).

### **Star:**

- Virtually the same as before with most of the changes consisting of rewording the prior requirements.
- One new requirement is to earn or re-earn a Cyber Chip (also needed for the new Scout rank).
- One new requirement is to sit down again with a parent and review the *Child Abuse* booklet pasted into each Scout handbook (also needed for both the old and new Scout rank).

### **Life and Eagle:**

- All changes consist of rewording the prior requirements.