

Changes to Rank requirements 1995 – 2006

Collated by Rank from: <http://usscouts.org/advance/boyscout/intro.html>

Here are the changes over the last ~10 years to the rank requirements:

Click Links for detail for individual ranks:

[Scout](#)

[Tenderfoot](#)

[Second Class](#)

[First Class](#)

[Star](#)

[Life](#)

[Eagle \(including Eagle Palms\)](#)

Scout Badge (Joining Requirements):

2006-2000 No Changes:

1999 – Changes:

Requirement 1 now reads:

Meet age requirements: Be a boy who has completed ~~Complete~~ the fifth grade, or ~~be~~ is 11 years old, or ~~has~~ have earned the Arrow of Light Award, but ~~be younger than~~ is under 18 years old.

A New Requirement 3 has been added, which reads:

Find a Scout Troop near your home

Old items 3-9 have been renumbered 4-10

Requirement 5 now reads:

Demonstrate the Scout sign, salute, and ~~handclasp~~ handshake.

Requirement 6 now reads:

Demonstrate tying the square knot (a joining knot).

Requirement 9 now reads:

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

Requirement 10 now reads:

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.

1998- 1995 No Changes:



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Tenderfoot Rank Requirements:

2006-2000 No Changes

1999 – Changes:

Requirement 2 now reads:

Spend at least one night on a patrol or troop campout. Sleep in a tent you have helped pitch. ~~on a ground bed you have prepared.~~



A New Requirement 3 has been added, which reads:

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.

Old items 3-13 have been renumbered 4-14

Requirement 10a now reads:

Record your best in the following tests:

- Push-ups
- Pull-ups
- Sit-ups
- Standing long jump
- 1/4 mile Run/walk ~~approximately one quarter mile.~~

Requirement 10b now reads:

Show improvement in the activities listed in requirement 10a ~~above~~ after practicing for 30 days.

1998 Changes:

In requirement 9a, the "Run/walk" distance has been changed from "500 yards" to "approximately one quarter mile."

"Complete your board of review" has been added as the final requirement. (Requirement 13)

NOTE: This change does NOT supersede the rule permitting a Board of Review after the Scout's 18th birthday, if all other requirements have been completed before that date.

1997-1996 – No Changes

1995 Changes:

Requirement 3(b) was changed to read as follows:

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3. (b) Demonstrate you know how to tie the following knots and tell what their uses are: two half hitches and the tautline hitch.

Requirement 11(b) was changed to read as follows:

11. (b) Show first Aid for the following:

- Simple cuts and scratches
- Blisters on the hand and foot
- Minor burns or scalds (first degree)
- Bites or stings of insects and ticks
- Poisonous snakebite
- Nosebleed
- Frostbite and sunburn

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Second Class



2006-2004 - No Changes

2003 Changes:

Requirement 2g, was revised in the 2000 Boy Scout Requirements Booklet, to delete a reference to the "four basic food groups" and substitute a reference to the "foods from the food pyramid" The exact change to the wording is as follows:

2g. On one campout, plan and cook over an open fire one hot breakfast or lunch for yourself, selecting foods from the ~~four basic~~ food **pyramid groups**. Explain the importance of good nutrition. Tell how to transport, store, and prepare the foods you selected.

2002 Changes:

The footnote to Requirements 7b and 7c which read, "This requirement may be waived by the troop committee for medical or safety reasons." has been removed (This was actually removed, without notice, in 2001.) A Scout who is unable to complete these requirements must follow the procedure for Scouts who are physically or mentally disabled to get permission to use [alternate requirements](#).

2001–2000 - No Changes

1999 – Changes:

Requirement 1b (and the footnote for this requirement) now read:

b. Using a compass and a map **together**, ~~you've drawn~~, take a 5-mile hike (or 10 miles by bike) approved by your adult leader and your parent or guardian.*

*(If you use a wheelchair or crutches, or if it is difficult for you to get around, you may substitute "trip" for "hike".)

Requirement 2e was renumbered as 2b.

Requirement 2b was renumbered as 2c, and now reads:

On one campout, demonstrate proper care, sharpening, and use of **the** knife, saw, and ax, **and describe when they should be used**.

Requirement 2c was renumbered as 2d, and now reads:

Use the tools listed ~~above~~ **in requirement 2c** to prepare tinder, kindling, and fuel for a cooking fire.

Requirement 2d was renumbered as 2f, and now reads:

Demonstrate how to light a fire and a lightweight stove. ~~Light the cooking fire. Assist with the meal preparation and cleanup.~~

Requirements 2e & 2g were added, and read:

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- e. Discuss when it is appropriate to use a cooking fire and a lightweight stove. Discuss the safety procedures for using both.
- g. On one campout, plan and cook over an open fire one hot breakfast or lunch for yourself, selecting foods from the four basic food groups. Explain the importance of good nutrition. Tell how to transport, store, and prepare the foods you selected.

The first sentence of Requirements 7 was designated as requirement 7a. The rest of Requirement 7 was changed to match the BEGINNER SWIMMER TEST and was designated as 7b and now reads:

Demonstrate your ability to jump feetfirst 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. ~~swim 50 yards using two different strokes.~~**

New Requirement 7c was added, and reads:

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.

Requirements 7a & 7b refer to the following footnote:

***(This requirement may be waived by the troop committee for medical or safety reasons.)*

1998 Changes:

"Complete your board of review" has been added as the final requirement. (Requirement 11)

NOTE: This change does NOT supersede the rule permitting a Board of Review after the Scout's 18th birthday, if all other requirements have been completed before that date.

1997-1996 - No Changes

1995 Changes:

Requirement 6(c) was changed to read as follows:

- 6. (c) Demonstrate first aid for the following:
 - Object in the eye
 - Bite of a suspected rabid animal
 - Puncture wounds from a splinter, nail, and fish hook
 - Serious burns (2nd degree)
 - Heat exhaustion
 - Shock
 - Heat stroke, dehydration, hypothermia, and hyperventilation
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First Class

2006 Changes:

The following new requirement 11 was added, and old requirements 11 and 12 were renumbered to 12 and 13.



11. *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.*

The new requirement was accompanied by this footnote:

Effective January , 2006, Scouts already working on their First Class rank prior to this date will have until June 30, 2006, to complete the rank without fulfilling requirement 11.

Questions were raised as to when does a Scout begin "working on their First Class rank"? We requested a clarification from the National BSA Office to resolve the issue. Here is their response:

A boy who is working on Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class (under the First Class Within a Year) is working on First Class. He would have until the June deadline to complete First Class or would have to complete under the new requirement.

2005 – No Changes

2004 Changes:

Requirement 4a was revised as follows:

4. *a. Help plan a patrol menu for one campout **including that includes at least** one breakfast, **one** lunch, and **one** dinner **and** that requires cooking **at least two meals**. Tell how the menu includes the foods from the food pyramid and meets nutritional needs.*

2003 Changes:

Requirement 4a, was revised in the 2000 Boy Scout Requirements Booklet, to delete a reference to the "four basic food groups" and substitute a reference to the "foods from the food pyramid" The exact change to the wording is as follows:

4a. Help plan a patrol menu for one campout -- including one breakfast, lunch, and dinner - that requires cooking. Tell how the menu includes the **foods from the food pyramid** ~~four basic food groups~~ and meets nutritional needs.

2002 Changes:

Old Requirement 9c, the swimming survival skills demonstration (jumping into water with clothes on) was deleted (and moved to Swimming Merit Badge -[see below](#)). Requirement 9d was renumbered to 9c,

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The footnote to Requirement 9b which read, "This requirement may be waived by the troop committee for medical or safety reasons." has been removed (This was actually removed, without notice, in 2001.) A Scout who is unable to complete these requirements must follow the procedure for Scouts who are physically or mentally disabled to get permission to use [alternate requirements](#).

2001–2000 No Changes

1999 – Changes:

Requirement 4 was completely rewritten, and now reads:

4. ~~On one campout, serve as your patrol's cook. Prepare a breakfast, lunch, and dinner menu that requires cooking; secure ingredients; supervise your assistants in fire building; and prepare the meals. Lead your patrol in saying grace at the meals, and supervise cleanup.~~
4. a. Help plan a patrol menu for one campout -- including one breakfast, lunch, and dinner - that requires cooking. Tell how the menu includes the four basic food groups and meets nutritional needs.
4. 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.
4. c. Tell which pans, utensils, and other gear will be needed to cook and serve these meals.
4. 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.
4. 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.

New Requirement 7a has been added and reads:

Discuss when you should and should not use lashings.

Requirements 7a & 7b were renumbered as 7b & 7c, and 7b was changed to read:

Demonstrate tying the timber hitch and ~~the~~ clove hitch and their use in square, shear, and diagonal lashings by joining two or more poles or staves together.

Requirements 8a & 8b were changed to read:

8. a. Demonstrate tying the bowline (~~rescue~~) knot and describe several ways it can be used. ~~how it's used in rescues.~~
8. b. Demonstrate bandages for a sprained ankle. and for injuries on the head, the upper arm, and the collarbone, ~~and for a sprained ankle.~~

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Requirement 9 was completely rewritten, and now reads:

9. ~~Demonstrate your ability to swim 100 yards using one resting stroke and two other strokes, and to float (rest) as motionless as possible for 1 minute. (This requirement may be waived by the troop committee for medical or safety reasons.)~~
9. a. Tell what precautions must be taken for a safe trip afloat.
9. b. Successfully complete the BSA swimmer test.*
9. c. Demonstrate survival skills by leaping into deep water wearing clothes (shoes, socks, swim trunks, long pants, belt, and long-sleeved shirt). Remove shoes and socks, inflate the shirt, and show that you can float using the shirt for support. Remove and inflate the pants for support. Swim 50 feet using the inflated pants for support, then show how to reinflate the pants while using them for support.*
9. d. With a helper and a practice victim, show a line rescue both as tender and rescuer. (The practice victim should be approximately 30 feet from shore in deep water.)

Requirements 9b & 9c refer to the following footnote:

*(This requirement may be waived by the troop committee for medical or safety reasons.)

1998 Changes:

In requirement 8c, "broken leg" has been changed to "sprained ankle."

"Complete your board of review" has been added as the final requirement. (Requirement 12)

NOTE: This change does NOT supersede the rule permitting a Board of Review after the Scout's 18th birthday, if all other requirements have been completed before that date.

1997–1995 - No Changes

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Star

2006-2001 – No Changes

2000 Changes:

In requirement 5 for Star, and requirement 4 for Eagle, the list of qualifying "Boy Scout troop positions of responsibility" was modified by adding the position of **Order of the Arrow troop representative** and by removing the position of **Venture Patrol Leader**, and the list of qualifying "Varsity Scout team positions of responsibility." was modified by adding the position of **Order of the Arrow team representative**. Note that Scouts serving in a Troop as Venture Patrol Leaders still qualify under the position of Patrol Leader.



The following Notes were also added to the end of the requirements for Eagle:

Note: All requirements must be completed before a candidate's 18th birthday. The Eagle Scout board of review can be held after the candidate's 18th birthday. For more information, see *Advancement Committee Policies and Procedures*, publication No. 33088B.

If you have a permanent physical or mental disability, you may become an Eagle Scout by qualifying for as many required merit badges as you can and qualifying for alternative merit badges for the rest. If you seek to become an eagle Scout under this procedure, you must submit a [special application](#) to your local council service center. Your application must be approved by your council advancement committee before you can work on alternative merit badges.

Although the printed requirements for Life have not changed, the change to requirement 5 for Star, also affects requirement 5 for Life.

The change adding the OA representative positions became effective in July, 1999.

1999 – Changes:

The list of Required merit badges for Eagle Scout, referenced in Requirement 3 has changed. **Sports** and **Safety** have been removed, and **Hiking** and **Cycling** have been added.

The note regarding the use of required merit badges has been changed to read:

*(The required list for Eagle has 15 merit badges in 12 categories. Any of the 15 may be used for this requirement.)** A Scout may choose any of the 15 required merit badges in the 12 categories to fulfill requirement 3. See page _____ of this book for a complete list of required badges for Eagle.

Requirement 5 has been changed to read:

While a First Class Scout, serve actively 4 months in one or more of the following ~~troop~~ positions of responsibility (or carry out a Scoutmaster-assigned leadership project to help the troop):

Boy Scout troop.

- Patrol leader,

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- assistant senior patrol leader,
- senior patrol leader,
- troop guide,
- den chief,
- scribe,
- librarian,
- historian,
- quartermaster,
- bugler,
- junior assistant Scoutmaster,
- chaplain aide, or
- instructor,
- ~~Venture crew chief, or~~
- ~~Varsity team captain.~~

Varsity Scout team.

- Captain.
- cocaptain.
- program manager.
- squad leader.
- team secretary.
- librarian.
- historian.
- quartermaster.
- chaplain aide.
- instructor, or
- den chief.

1998 Changes:

"Complete your board of review" has been added as the final requirement. (Requirement 7)

NOTE: This change does NOT supersede the rule permitting a Board of Review after the Scout's 18th birthday, if all other requirements have been completed before that date.

1997-1995 – No Changes

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Life

2006-2001 – No Changes

2000 Changes:

In requirement 5 for Star, and requirement 4 for Eagle, the list of qualifying "Boy Scout troop positions of responsibility" was modified by adding the position of **Order of the Arrow troop representative** and by removing the position of **Venture Patrol Leader**, and the list of qualifying "Varsity Scout team positions of responsibility." was modified by adding the position of **Order of the Arrow team representative**. Note that Scouts serving in a Troop as Venture Patrol Leaders still qualify under the position of Patrol Leader.



The following Notes were also added to the end of the requirements for Eagle:

Note: All requirements must be completed before a candidate's 18th birthday. The Eagle Scout board of review can be held after the candidate's 18th birthday. For more information, see *Advancement Committee Policies and Procedures*, publication No. 33088B.

If you have a permanent physical or mental disability, you may become an Eagle Scout by qualifying for as many required merit badges as you can and qualifying for alternative merit badges for the rest. If you seek to become an eagle Scout under this procedure, you must submit a [special application](#) to your local council service center. Your application must be approved by your council advancement committee before you can work on alternative merit badges.

Although the printed requirements for Life have not changed, the change to requirement 5 for Star, also affects requirement 5 for Life.

The change adding the OA representative positions became effective in July, 1999.

1999 – Changes

The list of Required merit badges for Eagle Scout, referenced in Requirement 3 has changed. **Sports** and **Safety** have been removed, and **Hiking** and **Cycling** have been added.

The list of positions, referenced in Requirement 5 has changed as described for Star Scout above.

The note regarding the use of required merit badges has changed as described for Star Scout above.

1998 Changes:

"Complete your board of review" has been added as the final requirement. (Requirement 7)

NOTE: This change does NOT supersede the rule permitting a Board of Review after the Scout's 18th birthday, if all other requirements have been completed before that date.

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1997-1995 – No Changes:

Eagle



2006-2001 – No Changes

2000 Changes:

In requirement 5 for Star, and requirement 4 for Eagle, the list of qualifying "Boy Scout troop positions of responsibility" was modified by adding the position of **Order of the Arrow troop representative** and by removing the position of **Venture Patrol Leader**, and the list of qualifying "Varsity Scout team positions of responsibility." was modified by adding the position of **Order of the Arrow team representative**. Note that Scouts serving in a Troop as Venture Patrol Leaders still qualify under the position of Patrol Leader.

The following Notes were also added to the end of the requirements for Eagle:

Note: All requirements must be completed before a candidate's 18th birthday. The Eagle Scout board of review can be held after the candidate's 18th birthday. For more information, see *Advancement Committee Policies and Procedures*, publication No. 33088B.

If you have a permanent physical or mental disability, you may become an Eagle Scout by qualifying for as many required merit badges as you can and qualifying for alternative merit badges for the rest. If you seek to become an eagle Scout under this procedure, you must submit a [special application](#) to your local council service center. Your application must be approved by your council advancement committee before you can work on alternative merit badges.

Although the printed requirements for Life have not changed, the change to requirement 5 for Star, also affects requirement 5 for Life.

The change adding the OA representative positions became effective in July, 1999.

Eagle Palms Requirements



Requirement 4 was revised to read as follows:

- Earn five additional merit badges beyond those required for Eagle **or last Palm.***

This change was NOT identified on the inside front cover of the Requirements Book.

1999 – Changes:

The list of Required merit badges in Requirement 3 has changed:

In item (f): **Safety** has been removed, and has been replaced with Personal Fitness.

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In item (j): *Personal Fitness* and *Sports* have been removed, and have been replaced with Hiking and Cycling.

Requirement 4 has been changed to read:

4. While a Life Scout, serve actively for a period of 6 months in one or more of the following ~~troop~~ positions of responsibility:

Boy Scout troop.

- Patrol leader,
- assistant senior patrol leader,
- senior patrol leader,
- troop guide,
- den chief,
- scribe,
- librarian,
- historian,
- quartermaster,
- junior assistant Scoutmaster,
- chaplain aide, or
- instructor,
- ~~Venture crew chief, or~~
- ~~Varsity team captain.~~

Varsity Scout team.

- Captain,
- cocaptain,
- program manager,
- squad leader,
- team secretary,
- librarian,
- quartermaster,
- chaplain aide,
- instructor, or
- den chief.

Requirement 5 has been changed to read:

While a Life Scout, plan, develop, and give leadership to others in a service project helpful to any religious institution, any school, or your community. (The project should benefit an organization other than Boy Scouting.) The project idea must be approved by your Scoutmaster and troop committee and approved by the council or district before you start. You must use the Life to Eagle Packet, BSA Publication ~~YOU MUST USE THE "Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook"~~, No. 18-927, in meeting this requirement ~~IN MEETING THIS REQUIREMENT.~~

Requirement 7 has been changed to read:

Successfully complete an Eagle Scout ~~Complete your~~ board of review.

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Eagle Palm Requirements:

Requirement 6 has been added:



Complete your board of review.

1998 Changes:

"Complete your board of review" has been added as the final requirement. (Requirement 7)

NOTE: This change does NOT supersede the rule permitting a Board of Review after the Scout's 18th birthday, if all other requirements have been completed before that date.

1997 – No Changes:

1996 Changes:

In requirement 4, the position of Historian has been added to the list of qualifying "troop positions of responsibility."

1995 – No Changes