

**I'm First Class,  
Now What?**

**Parent Orientation Meetings -  
3rd in a Series:**

**The Road To Eagle  
April 7, 2008**

# Agenda

Introduction

Suggested Timeframes

Requirements for Upper Ranks

- Be Active in Troop & Patrol

- Demonstrate Scout Spirit

- Service Hour Projects

- Position of Responsibility

- Merit Badges

- Scout Master Conference

- Board of Review

Plan Ahead / Critical Path on the Road to Eagle

# **Introduction:**

- **For the past 1- 2 years the new scouts have been completing the Trail to First Class. Much has been learned. First Class scouts now know all the basics of camping, first aid and water safety.**
- **Today we are going to cover their next journey: The Road to Eagle**

# Suggested Timeframes

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Avg Timeframe</u>
Scout	5th grade-Spring
Tenderfoot	6th grade-Fall
Second Class	6th grade-Spring
First Class	7th grade-Fall
Star	8 <sup>th</sup> grade-Fall
Life	9 <sup>th</sup> grade-Fall
Eagle	10 <sup>th</sup> grade-Spring

After Sophomore year, school and extra-curricular activities make it exceedingly difficult to earn one or more ranks – just ask any parents with older scouts.

# Requirements for each Upper Rank

1. Be Active in Troop & Patrol
2. Demonstrate Scout Spirit
3. Merit Badges
4. Service Hour Projects
5. Position of Responsibility
6. Scout Master Conference
7. Board of Review

# Be Active in Troop & Patrol

To earn Star Scout: Be active in your troop and patrol for at least 4 months as a First Class Scout

To earn Life Scout: Be active in your troop and patrol for at least 6 months as a Star Scout

To earn Eagle Scout: Be active in your troop and patrol for at least 6 months as a Life Scout

Tips:

- Sign-in legibly at Troop Meetings or you won't get credit
- If you are holding a position of responsibility you must attend at least 50% of all troop activities.
- Plan ahead with homework and studying so you won't miss campouts.

# Demonstrate Scout Spirit

Demonstrate Scout Spirit by living the Scout Oath (Promise) and Scout Law in your everyday life.

Living the Scout Oath and Scout Law are the keys here.

When Scouts follow the Oath and Law each day, they will have plenty of examples to share with the Scoutmaster during the Scoutmaster Conference for each rank.

# Service Hour Projects

Scouts must perform a minimum of Service Hours during each upper rank:

To earn Star Rank: while a First Class Scout, take part in service projects totaling at least 6 hours.

To earn Life Rank: while a Star Scout, take part in service projects totaling at least 6 hours.

Eagle: Eagle Service Project discussed with Scoutmaster

Extra Service Hours cannot be carried over to next rank:

If John completes 8 hours of service while a First Class Scout, he meets the Star requirement of 6 Service Hours, but he cannot carry-over the other 2 hours for his Life rank. He needs 6 service hours earned while a Star scout to earn Life (counter starts over).

# Service Hours - continued

A Scout's participation in the Second Class, Star or Life service project (except for an Eagle or other Troop 839 service project) must be approved in advance by the Scoutmaster.

All Second Class, Star or Life service projects must be supervised by an adult. Parents may not supervise or sign-off on their own son's service project, unless the service was for an Eagle (or other Troop 839) service project.

Activities which primarily benefit Troop 839, its members, or family of Troop 839 members will not fulfill or count toward the service requirements for Second Class, Star or Life rank.

# Merit Badges Required for Star, Life and Eagle Ranks

The ranks of Star, Life and Eagle require completing a certain number of "**Eagle-required**" merit badges, plus some optional badges of the Scout's choice.

<u>Rank</u>	<u>Total MBs</u>	<b>Eagle-Required MBs</b>	<u>Elective MBs</u>
Star	6	<b>4</b>	2
Life	5	<b>3</b>	2
Eagle	<u>10</u>	<b><u>5</u></b>	<u>5</u>
Total	21	<b>12</b>	9

# Eagle-Required Merit Badges

Of the total 21 merit badges needed for Eagle, there are 12 specific merit badges that must be earned. These Eagle-Required Merit Badges are listed on page 188 of your son's Scout Handbook.

1. Camping
2. Citizen in the Community
3. Citizen in the Nation
4. Citizen in the World
5. Communications
6. Environmental Science
7. First Aid
8. Emergency Preparedness or Lifesaving
9. Family Life
10. Personal Fitness
11. Personal Management
12. Swimming, Hiking or Cycling

A list of the Merit Badge Electives can be found starting on page 190 of your son's Scout Handbook.

# The number of Eagle-Required Merit Badges Required for Star, Life, Eagle

- Star Scout requires a total of 6 merit badges; 4 of these 6 must be from the list of the *"Eagle-Required"* merit badges.
- Life Scout requires a total of 11 merit badges (5 in addition to those earned for Star). 3 of the additional 5 badges must be from the list of the *"Eagle-Required"* merit badges.
- Eagle Scout requires a total of 21 merit badges; 5 additional (or a total of 12) of these must be from the list of *"Eagle-Required"* merit badges.

## 8 KEY CONCEPTS TO TAKE AWAY:

1. As your son progresses as a Second Class, First Class, and Star Scout, make sure he is signing up and completing enough Eagle-Required Merit Badges along with the easier electives.
2. Rule of Thumb - Scouts should take one Eagle-Required Merit Badge for every elective merit badge they take at Winter Camp and Summer Camp.
3. Winter Camp is a great opportunity for scouts to knock out most requirements of 2 or 3 merit badges including Eagle-Required merit badges. It's one 3-day weekend low-cost, and the camp is close by.

## 8 KEY CONCEPTS TO TAKE AWAY:

4. During the year, have your scout alternate the type of Merit Badge he takes at the church (1 elective / 1 Eagle-Required / 1 elective, etc.)
5. Some of the Eagle-Required Merit Badges require 13 weeks of activities and recordkeeping. So don't get caught having to complete these Merit Badges all at one-time and plan ahead so they are done prior to the last year. This will reduce/eliminate the stress and "mad rush" some scouts (and parents) have experienced in their last year when they have to complete several of more complex Eagle-Required Merit Badges in a short span of time.

## 8 KEY CONCEPTS TO TAKE AWAY:

6. Treat the Blue Merit Badge Cards and the Merit Badge Award Cards like “gold”. These are your son’s proof that they have completed the merit badge.
7. Use the Individual History Reports that we distribute to keep track of partial and completed Merit Badges.
8. If your son has more than 1 or 2 incomplete Eagle Required Merit Badges, have him complete those prior to signing up for a new elective. Frequently, scouts won’t realize they are only missing 1 or 2 requirements.

# Merit Badge Counselors

- We welcome any interested adult to sign up as a merit badge counselor.
- Only adults who are officially registered with Boy Scouts are authorized to act as counselors.
- There is no fee involved in registering to be a merit badge counselor.
- Merit Badge Counselor Registration Forms are available at each troop meeting. Please see Cissy Wilson to sign-up.
- Given the number and breadth of options, there are opportunities for almost every skill and area of knowledge.
- As a reminder, any time a counselor is meeting with a scout other than in public view, there **MUST** be a third individual present. If another adult is not available for this purpose, there must be at least 2 scouts.

# Position of Responsibility

*A scout must perform the responsibilities of a leadership position in order to advance to each upper rank.*

*While a **First Class Scout**, serve actively for 4 months in one or more of the leadership positions\**

*While a **Star Scout**, serve actively for 6 months in one or more of the leadership positions\**

*While a **Life Scout**, serve actively for 6 months in one or more of the leadership positions\**

*\* or carry out a Scoutmaster-assigned leadership project to help the troop*

The Troop 839 Organization and Operating Procedures document describes the responsibilities and qualifications for these Troop Leadership positions. See our website [www.troop839.com](http://www.troop839.com)

# Position of Responsibility – continued

You need to apply for these positions prior to the Troop Election date in June and December. See the Troop Calendar for the Troop Election Dates.

Application forms to fill-out and turn into the Scoutmaster are on our website [www.Troop839.com](http://www.Troop839.com)

The Position of Responsibility is probably the hardest to fit into the scout's long-term schedule due to the "hard" start date and the number of months required.

# Position of Responsibility – Example

- It's November, 2008.
- Bob earned his First Class Scout Rank at summer camp and will have 6 months as an active scout by December 31st.
- He has 6 merit badges needed for Star Rank, including 4 Eagle-Required Merit Badges.
- However, Bob doesn't have his leadership position yet. So he needs to apply. What's the impact if he misses the deadline?
  - If he applies for a position in early December and fulfills the requirements of that position for 4 months, he can ask for a Scoutmaster Conference and Board of Review for Star in **May, 2009**.
  - If he misses the DEC deadline he won't have a leadership position until July of 2009, and his Star rank will have to wait until **November, 2009**.
- So the impact is an extra six months (a year after Nov 2008). **If you don't want to wait, plan ahead and apply early.**
- Also, apply for a back-up position in case you are not elected.

# CRITICAL PATH

## To earn Star:

4 months as an active First Class Scout

4 months active service in a position of responsibility while  
First Class Scout

## To earn Life:

6 months as an active Star Scout

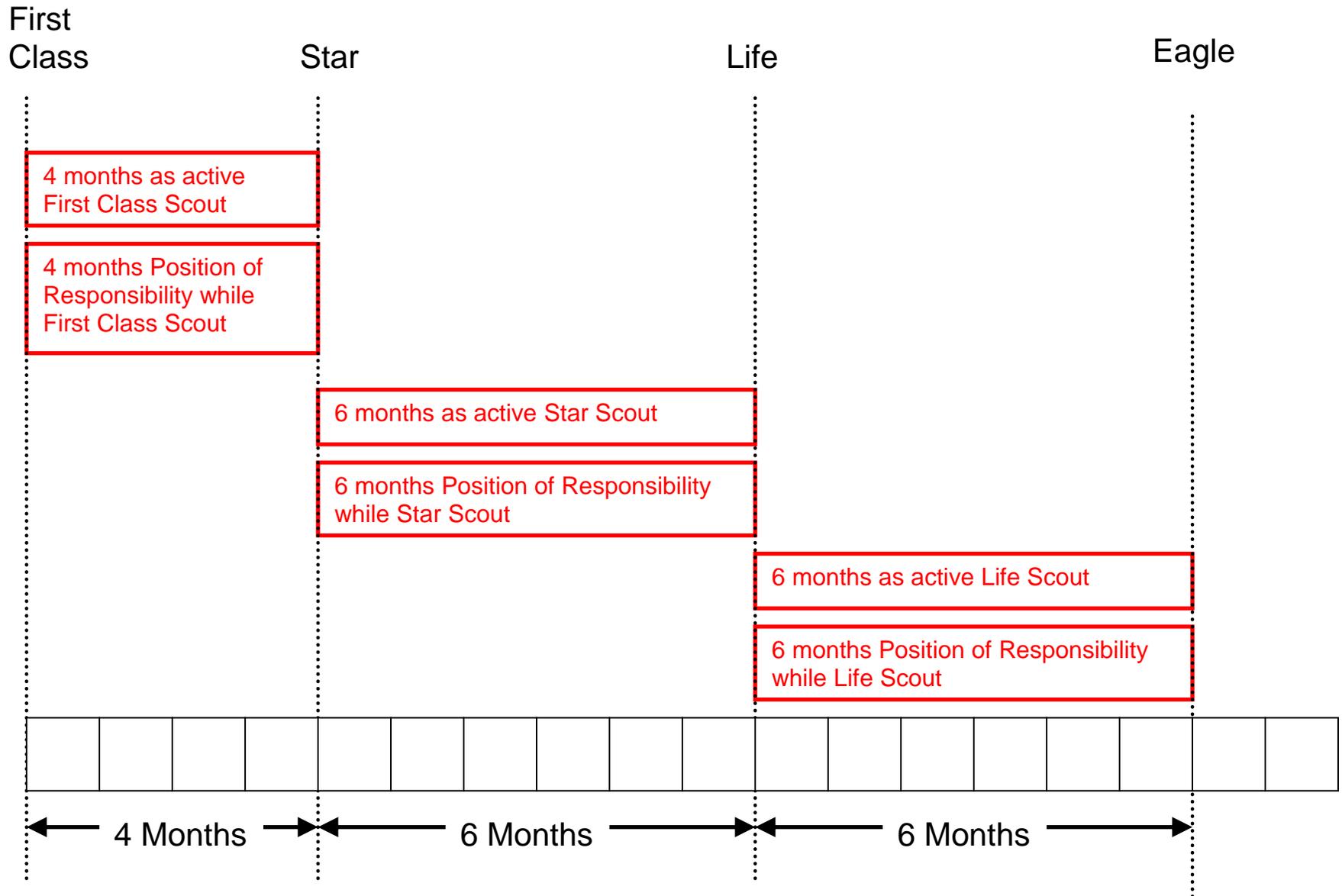
6 months active service in a position of responsibility while  
Star Scout

## To earn Eagle:

6 months as an active Life Scout

6 months active service in a position of responsibility while  
Life Scout

# Critical Path Planning for Road to Eagle



# Scout Master Conference for Star & Life

When all requirements for a rank have been completed, the Scout must contact the Scoutmaster to schedule a conference.

Together they will set goals for advancement to the next rank. Upon completion, the Scoutmaster will initial in the Scout's handbook that the conference has been completed.

*TIP: Phone the Scoutmaster in advance to schedule a time and avoid confusion & delays at Troop Meeting.*

# Board of Review for Star & Life

- After completion of the Scoutmaster Conference, the Scout must contact the Advancement Committee Chair to schedule a Board of Review.
- The Board is composed of three Committee Members (other than the particular Scout's parents).
- The purpose of the Board is to assure that the Scout is learning from the scouting program, enjoying the program, etc. The Board asks the Scout to review their leadership, merit badge, and service hour experiences since the last Board of Review and their plans for the upcoming rank.

# Special Eagle Rank Requirements

Eagle Rank has some special requirements for the

- Eagle Service Project
- Eagle Scout Master Conference
- Eagle Board of Review

These will be covered in a separate document and discussions with Eagle Coordinators (Mr. Leon and Mr. Roberts).

They meet with all new Life Scouts within a month of earning this rank.