

Eleven Year Old (EYO) Scouts

Tenderfoot to First Class Scout Year-Round Program

1. Tenderfoot to First Class in One Year. EYO Scouts should complete the requirements for First Class Scout during their year as an EYO Scout. However, since boys come into EYO Scouts year-round, it is not possible to step them through Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class requirements in order as a group. To facilitate boys entering EYO year-round, attached is a Tenderfoot to First Class Scout Year-Round Program. Each month, a different Scout skill area is taught, teaching all the requirements for all the ranks in that skill area. They are organized in a logical order, considering the seasons for indoor and outdoor activities, and are geared to the three principle campouts in October, April, and June. The boy enters the program any month of the year and by the end of the year, they will have completed all of the requirements for First Class. (The year-round program plan starts in September to coincide with the Scout year, September - August.)

2. Scout Rank Immediately. No matter when the boy enters EYO Scouts, he should pass the requirements for the Scout Rank immediately and be awarded the Scout Rank badge in a EYO Scout meeting or a Court of Honor.

3. Awarded Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class Ranks all at Once. With a year-round EYO Scout Tenderfoot to First Class program, the EYO Scouts may be awarded their Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class ranks all at once at the end of their EYO year, just prior to turning 12 years old and entering the Deacon's Scout Troop. BSA advancement rules permit this.

4. Camping. The Church policy on EYO Scouts is that they have only three one night overnight campouts in a year. The principle campouts in October (BSA District Fall Camporee), April (BSA District Spring Camporee), and June EYO Campout will provide these campouts. However, since not all the boys may be able to attend the three principle campouts, additional campouts will need to be planned as make-ups. Only the boys who have not had three campouts should attend the make-up camps but Scout youth protection and safety rules must be followed so that there must be a minimum of two youth and two adults for camping (and activities). In this case, if this requires a boy to camp more than three times a year to help another boy meet his three night camping requirements, leaders should counsel with their Primary and Priesthood leaders to receive permission for this exception. (Page 4, LDS Scouting Handbook; BSA Guide to Safe Scouting.)

5. Monthly Saturday Activities. EYO Scouts should have a monthly Saturday activity or campout to practice and become proficient in Scout skills. This will prepare them for the Deacon Scout Troop whose program includes monthly campouts. It is also a best practice to teach Scout skills during the weekly meetings and then pass the EYO Scout off on the requirements as he performs them on another event such as a campout, day camp, hike, or other Saturday EYO Scout activity. It is not good to teach a Scout skill and pass it off in the same Scout meeting – this does not test the boy's proficiency nor

does it provide adequate practice and repetition to become proficient in the skill. A good rule is that a Scout demonstrates that he can perform a Scout Skill three times before it is passed off. A good formula for this might be to teach a skill in one meeting, practice it again in a second meeting, and pass it off during the monthly activity or campout. At this point you can be reasonably confident that the boy knows the skill and can perform it on his own without someone having to remind him how to do it.

Also note that advancement requirements for First Class requires that the Scout participate in have participated in a minimum of 10 separate troop/patrol activities (other than troop/patrol meetings), 3 of which must be overnight campouts. These activities are not EYO Scout meetings, meeting with the Scout troop for Scout troop meetings, or Courts of Honor. The 10 activities are day hikes, day camps, service projects, the 3 overnight campouts, etc.. In 2010, this requirement will be further clarified to state 10 separate troop/patrol activities (other than troop/patrol meetings) where Scouts can demonstrate Leave No Trace principles (ie, hikes, day camps, the 3 overnight camps, ecology service projects, etc.).

6. Primary Quarterly Activity. EYO boys will also participate in quarterly Primary Activity Days but these will be in addition to the EYO Scout monthly activity or campout and should not replace the EYO Scout monthly activity or campout.

7. Merit Badges for EYO Scouts. Merit Badges are not recommended for EYO Scouts. They have a full program learning Scout skills for Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class. If they are to become proficient in these Scout skills and First Class Scouts in fact and deed, they do not have time for merit badges. They will have two years in Deacon Scouts (and beyond) to earn Merit Badges. "All things at their proper time and place."

8. EYO Scouts and Scout Summer Camp. Church policy is that EYO Scouts not attend Boy Scout Summer camp with the Deacon Scouts. EYO Scouts have their own EYO Campout in June that they attend instead.

9. EYO Scout Meeting with Deacons' Scout Troop. It is Church policy that EYO Scouts have their own meeting and not meet with the Deacons' Scout Troop except when approved by Primary and Priesthood leaders for special Scout skill instruction such as CPR or other very specialized training. However, if there is less than two EYO Scouts in a Ward EYO program, EYO Scout leaders should counsel with their Primary and Priesthood leaders about how to also abide by BSA youth protection and safety requirements that require a minimum of two youth and two adults for meetings. (Page 4, LDS Scouting Handbook; BSA Guide to Safe Scouting.) EYO Scouts may and should camp as a patrol with the Deacons' Scout Troop at the BSA District Fall and Spring Camporee but they will typically participate in First-Year Scout activities at the camporee. (In Scouting **outside of the Church**, EYO Scouts are called First-Year Scouts but may include boys starting at age 10½.)

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