

In the original Scouting program created by Robert Baden-Powell, the First Class rank was the highest rank and was designed to make Scouts into well-rounded outdoorsmen. The rank was intended to prepare Scouts to be leaders in their patrol, troop, and community. Optimally, Scouts should focus on attaining First Class rank within the first 18 months of their Scouting journey.

Over the next 8 weeks, our Troop will be preparing for our District's Klondike campout, which pits Troops against each other in competition in various scout skills. While we are preparing for this campout, now is the perfect time for your Scout to complete requirements towards the first few of the ranks in Scouting.

Once your Scout feels like he has become a master of each skill, he can reach out to any of Scoutmasters to be tested on his competence and upon successful achievement, receive a signature in his Scout Handbook (*it is imperative that he bring his handbook to all weekly meetings for this reason; [see Awards and Advancement pg 413-421])*

Below is the tentative skills schedule along with the corresponding pages in the Scout Handbook so that your Scout can come to the meetings prepared:

Saturday January 11

Team Building Games / Sled Team Preparation

Monday January 13

Teamwork / Safe Swim Aquatics (pg 172-180)

Saturday January 18

Skills day @ Belk

Monday January 20

Cooking

Saturday January 25

Cooking

Monday January 27

Knots / Pioneering (pg 365-378)

Saturday February 1

Knots / Pioneering (pg 365-378)

Monday February 3

PLC / Meal planning

Saturday February 8

First Aid

Monday February 10

Fire building / Orienteering (pg 328-331, 340-345, 350-351)

Saturday February 15

Cooking / Orienteering

Monday February 17

First Aid (pg 116-150)

Friday February 21 - Sunday February 23

Klondike Derby (camping trip)

Beyond the above scout skills during the Monday/Saturday meetings in January and February, we will also be participating in our Scouting for Food community service event. On January 25 and February 1, we will aid the local food pantry collect food/donations in order to help feed our communities for up to 6 months. Troop members are expected to participate and their time will be credited towards rank advancement as well.