

# Trail to First Class Skills Weekend 2025

## OA Call-Out Ceremony

### Preparing Scouts for Advancement & Adventure

Dear unit leaders and SPL's,

This manual is designed to inform you of our plans to help your Scouts attain the skills they may not have in working towards the rank of First Class. This should help you prepare your scouts and units for a weekend of learning, fun and friendship. Please read this manual in its entirety. After reading, if you have any questions please contact Tom Lynch at [BSAGreatFalls@gmail.com](mailto:BSAGreatFalls@gmail.com). Registration is online via Blackpug at <https://scoutingevent.com/315-91864>

IOLS adult leader training will also be offered through the District at the campout and registration can be found at <https://scoutingevent.com/315-96144>

Early registration ends April 1<sup>st</sup>. After that date, regular registration costs are applied.

**Campout will be April 11<sup>th</sup>- 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

Trail to First Class will be at the Holter Lake Campground, Holter Lake.

(First campground on right as you enter the lake area)



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## **Event Overview**

This weekend is designed to give opportunities for younger Scouts to earn skills and work on advancements that they may not have the chance to work on throughout the year. There will be several areas open. The Scout participating will need to rotate through these areas. There will be fun, friendship and learning to do. This guide will help you prepare your troop and youth for the annual Trail to First Class Skills Weekend.

## **Registration**

Registration must be done online. Any adult leaders with medical training are requested to volunteer for medical staff. If interested, please contact Tom Lynch at BSAGreatFalls@gmail.com

Early Bird pricing is \$15.00 per participant (youth and Adult). Early bird pricing ends April 1<sup>st</sup> at midnight and the regular cost of \$20.00 will be implemented.

Each registered participant will receive a Trail to First Class Patch. As an incentive for current dues paid OA members, each OA member that has paid their dues for the 2025 year will also receive an additional limited-edition patch. OA members can pay dues at <https://scoutingevent.com/315-OADues25> any time prior to the campout.



Bottom main patch



Top OA Incentive Patch

Each of the skills areas will be run by a pre-assigned unit with the assistance of scouts 1<sup>st</sup> class and higher. We will not be signing in Scout's Handbooks at each station. We will be providing a booklet that will describe all the planned requirements. Once the Scout has completed a particular skill at their station, the instructor will mark it in this booklet. At the end of the day, it is the Scout's responsibility to ensure the requirements are signed off by their Scoutmaster

## **General Rules**

The Scout Law, Scout Oath, and the Outdoor Code are the guiding rules of enforcement. Please respect nature here at Holter Lake; it belongs to everyone.

**Current Dues paid OA members are encouraged to wear their OA Sashes for the campout.**

## **Event Organization and Rules**

This weekend is geared to helping younger Scouts work on requirements they may otherwise not have the opportunity to work on in troop meetings. Although this may seem like an individual based weekend, it will require the teamwork and support of all in attendance. You will be bringing your own food and cooking in your own campsite areas. Please come prepared with proper food storage containers. You will also need to bring your own clean up supplies for your area.

## **Scout's Booklets**

The booklets we will hand out are guides that will help the individual Scout keep track of what they worked on this weekend. Please have the scouts write their name and unit # on them as soon as they receive their booklets.

## **Skills Areas**

Our skill areas are set up to offer diversity in providing needs for the Scouts. The Scouts will be able to attend six sessions on Saturday. These sessions will be planned for one hour. The stations will include Compass/Orienteering, Knots/Pioneering, First aid, Flags/Ceremony, Nature, Totin Chip & Firem'n Chit. A flag ceremony will be conducted on Saturday.

## **Medical Forms**

Medical forms are required for the event and will be checked at check-in and maintained by individual units.

## **Check In**

Units may check in at Camp Headquarters up until 9:00 PM on Friday evening. All training classes and campfire will be held on Saturday.

## **Schedule**

### **Friday April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

4:00 PM Registration and Check-In opens  
9:00 PM Registration Closes  
9:00 PM SPL/Adult leader meeting and cracker barrel  
10:00 PM Taps (all quiet in camp)

### **Saturday April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

6:00 AM – Reveille, followed by breakfast  
8:30 AM - Morning Colors and Opening Ceremony  
9:00 AM - First Session Begins  
10:00 AM - Second Session Begins  
11:00 AM – Third Session Begins  
12:00 PM - Lunch Break  
1:30 PM - Forth Session Begins  
2:30 PM - Fifth Session Begins  
3:30 PM - Sixth Session Begins  
4:30 PM – All Sessions close  
5:00 PM - OA Meeting at Flagpole  
6:00 PM - Dutch Oven Competition (Judging at Pavilion)  
8:00 PM - Scouts Own at Flagpole. Followed by OA Call Out Ceremony and campfire.  
10:00 PM - Taps (all quiet in camp)

### **Sunday April 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024**

6:00 AM – Reveille, followed by breakfast  
8:00 AM – Noon- Clean Campsite and Check-Out

## **Scout Training Areas and Descriptions**

### **Compass/Orienteering:**

**2nd Class 3a.** Demonstrate how a compass works and how to orient a map. Use a map to point out and tell the meaning of five map symbols.

**2nd Class 3d.** Demonstrate how to find directions during the day and at night without using a compass or electronic device.

**1st Class 4a.** Using a map and compass, complete an orienteering course that covers at least one mile and requires measuring the height and/or width of designated items (tower, canyon, ditch etc.)

**1st Class 4b.** Demonstrate how to use a handheld GPS unit, GPS app on a smartphone, or other electronic navigation system. Use GPS to find your current location, a destination of your choice, and the route you will take to get there. Follow that route to arrive at your destination.

### **Knots:**

**Scout 4a.** Show how to tie a square knot, two half-hitches, and a taut-line hitch. Explain how each knot is used.

**Scout 4b.** Show the proper care of a rope by learning how to whip and fuse the ends of different kinds of rope.

**Tenderfoot 3a, 3b & 3c.** Demonstrate a practical use of the square knot, two half-hitches and the taut-line hitch.

**2nd Class 2f.** Demonstrate tying the sheet bend knot. Describe a situation in which you would use this knot.

**2nd Class 2g.** Demonstrate tying the bowline knot. Describe a situation in which you would use this knot.

**1st Class 3a.** Discuss when you should and should not use lashings.

**1st Class 3b.** Demonstrate tying the timber hitch and clove hitch.

**1st Class 3c.** Demonstrate tying the square, shear, and diagonal lashings by joining two or more poles or staves together.

**1st Class 3d.** Use lashings to make a useful camp gadget or structure.

### **First Aid:**

**Tenderfoot 4a.** Show first aid for the following: Simple cuts and scrapes, Blisters on the hand and foot, Minor burns or scalds (first degree, Bites or stings of insects and ticks, Venomous snakebite, nosebleed, Frostbite and sunburn, Choking.

**2nd Class 6a.** Show what to do for “hurry” cases of stopped breathing, stroke, severe bleeding, and ingested poisoning.

**1st Class 7a.** Demonstrate bandages for a sprained ankle and for injuries of the head, the upper arm, and the collarbone.

**1st Class 7b.** By yourself and with a partner, show how to: Transport a person from a smoke filled room. Transport for at least 25 yards a person with a sprained ankle.

**1st Class 7c.** Tell the five most common signals of a heart attack. Explain the steps (procedures) in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).

### **Outdoor Identification/Nature:**

**Tenderfoot 4b.** Describe common poisonous plants or hazardous plants; identify any that grow in your local area or campsite location. Tell how to treat for exposure to them.

**2nd Class 4.** Identify, or show evidence of at least 10 kinds of wild animals (such as birds, mammals, reptiles, fish, or mollusks) found in your local area or camping location. You may show evidence by tracks, signs, or photographs you have taken.

**1st Class 5a.** Identify, or show evidence of at least 10 kinds of native plants found in your local area or campsite location. You may show evidence by identifying fallen leaves or fallen fruit that you find in the field, or as part of a collection you have made, or by photographs you have taken.

**1st Class 5b.** Identify two ways to obtain a weather forecast for an upcoming activity. Explain why weather forecasts are important when planning for an event.

### **Camping:** (In your campground area with your Troop.)

**Tenderfoot 1b.** Spend at least one night on a patrol or troop campout. Sleep in a tent you have helped pitch. This is probably the easiest requirement to do this weekend...almost a freebie for attendees.

**Cooking:** In your campground area with your Troop.

**Tenderfoot 2a.** On the campout, assist in preparing one of the meals. Tell why it is

important for each patrol member to share in meal preparation and cleanup.

**Tenderfoot 2b.** While on a campout, demonstrate the appropriate method of safely cleaning items used to prepare, serve and eat a meal.

**Tenderfoot 2c.** Explain the importance of eating together as a patrol.

**2nd Class. 2e.** On one campout, plan and cook one hot breakfast or lunch, selecting foods from MyPlate or the current USDA nutritional model. Explain the importance of good nutrition. Demonstrate how to transport, store, and prepare the foods you selected.

**1st Class 2a.** Help plan a menu for one of the above campouts that include at least one breakfast, one lunch, and one dinner, and that requires cooking at least two of the meals. Tell how the menu includes the foods from MyPlate or the current USDA nutritional model and how it meets the nutritional needs for the planned activity or campout.

**1st Class 2b.** Using the menu planned in First Class requirement 2a, make a list showing a budget and the food amounts needed to feed three or more boys. Secure the ingredients.

**1st Class 2c.** Show which pans, utensils, and other gear will be needed to cook and serve these meals.

**1st Class 2d.** Demonstrate the procedures to follow in the safe handling and storage of fresh meats, dairy products, eggs, vegetables, and other perishable food products. Show how to properly dispose of camp garbage, cans, plastic containers, and other rubbish.

**1st Class 2e.** On one campout, serve as cook. Supervise your assistant(s) in using a stove or building a cooking fire. Prepare the breakfast, lunch, and dinner planned in First Class requirement 2a. Supervise the cleanup.

### **Tot'n Chip:**

**Scout 5.** Demonstrate your knowledge of pocketknife safety.

**Tenderfoot 3d.** Demonstrate proper care, sharpening, and use of the knife, saw, and ax. Describe when each should be used.



### **Firem'n Chit.**

**2nd Class 2a.** Explain when it is appropriate to use a fire for cooking or other purposes and when it would not be appropriate to do so.

**2nd Class 2b.** Use the tools listed in Tenderfoot requirement 3d to prepare tinder, kindling, and fuel wood for a cooking fire.

**2nd Class 2d.** Explain when it is appropriate to use a lightweight stove and when it is appropriate to use a propane stove. Set up a lightweight stove or propane stove. Light the stove, unless prohibited by local fire restriction. Describe the safety procedures for using these types of stoves.

### **Flags & Ceremony:** (Meet in the Flagpole area.)

**Tenderfoot 7a.** Demonstrate how to display, raise, lower, and fold the U.S. flag.

**2nd Class 8a.** Participate in a flag ceremony for your school, religious institution, chartered organization, community, or Scouting activity.

**2nd Class 8b.** Explain what respect is due the flag of the United States.

## **Scoutmaster Dutch Oven Competition**

All Scoutmasters or Adult Leaders Dutch Oven Competition. OA leadership will have a committee vote and judge for the **Best Dutch Oven dessert containing Fruit**. Judging will take place at 6:00pm @ Camp Headquarters with winners announced. The following rules apply. All entrees must be presented in a Dutch oven. All entrees must be completely made in camp (pre-prepping but no pre-cooking allowed).

## **SPL/ Adult Leader Meeting**

Friday night will be a mandatory leadership meeting/cracker barrel at 9:00 PM in the camp headquarters area. All SPL's and one adult leader per Troop should be at the meeting. The unit leaders will get their booklets to distribute to the scouts and list of locations for Saturday's events. This meeting will also be used to answer any questions, resolve issues and make any changes or additions to the program. Saturday evening, adult leaders are welcomed to share helpful suggestions with the staff at the camp headquarters.

## **Open Fires**

Fires will be permitted only in the campfire rings provided. Firewood will not be provided, so troops are required to bring their own wood, kindling and tinder. The fires will need to be under supervision at all times. Each unit must follow fire safety rules and are responsible for providing their own safety equipment (water bucket, shovels, etc.)

## **First Aid**

A list of qualified adults with First Aid training will be made available at the campground headquarters. All injuries and illnesses should be reported to headquarters, no matter how minor they appear, as the must be entered into the first aid log.

## **Knives, Axes & Saws**

Scouts may use axes and saws only if an axe yard is set up and marked off by the unit.

## **Lanterns & Stoves**

Scouts may use liquid fueled lanterns and stoves, but both must be under the supervision of an adult. No lamps, candles or other heat sources are allowed in tents.

## **Cooking**

Scouts do their own cooking by the patrol method. Scouts who are working on requirements for cooking should submit their meal plan for approval before this weekend. Since we are not signing in books, the meal approval should be done before they buy their food and come to camp. The Scouts should be looking for meals they can prepare themselves on an open flame or cooking stove to satisfy the requirements. The Scouts should be planning their meals just as they would on a normal campout. It is up to the individual units to bring their own cooking stoves, pots and pans, utensils or other cooking equipment. All units will cook at their own campsites. It is strongly suggested that the time constraints of the TTFC weekend be kept in mind when planning your meals. Time for cooking and cleaning will be at a minimum for the sake of the number of activities that will take place.

## **Water**

Water may not be available at the campground due to the early camping season. If water is available, it may not have been tested for potability. Each unit should plan on bringing their own potable water for the weekend.

## **Sanitary Facilities**

A SCOUT IS CLEAN! Marked male and female Restrooms are available throughout the campground. Please use them for their intended purposes. Do not use trees or dig latrines in your campsite. Please keep these facilities clean, as multiple units will be using them.

## **Trash & Garbage**

Pack it in, pack it out! Please bring garbage bags for disposal of your trash and garbage. Everyone must haul out their own trash and garbage on Sunday. Please remember that animals live in camp too. Keep food put away when not cooking.

## **Tents**

Remember low impact camping techniques. Tent ditching or trenching is not allowed. Look for a well-drained area to pitch your tent. RV's or Campers allowed for adults but not recommended. RV area is available at a first come first serve basis and is a pay to camp area away from unit camping.

## **Taps**

A SCOUT IS COURTEOUS. After taps every Scout is expected to be in camp and quiet at that time. If you must move about in your own area after taps, do it quietly so that others are not disturbed. Roaming about the campgrounds or other campsites will not be tolerated.

## **Campfire/Call-out Ceremony**

All units are expected to participate in Saturday night's OA Call Out ceremony and campfire. Field Uniforms are required.

## **Scout's Own**

A SCOUT IS REVERENT. We will have a non-denominational Scout's Own for all Scouts and leaders Saturday evening 8:00 PM (see schedule). We request everyone to attend this function as no other activities will be planned or allowed during this time. Please have any Chaplain Assistant's in your unit be prepared to assist with this service.

## **Uniforms**

We ask all Scouts and leaders to wear field uniforms while traveling to and from Holter Lake. Class B uniforms will be permitted while participating in the program classes. Full uniform will be required for Saturday morning's flag ceremony and the Call-out Ceremony.

## **Flags**

All Scouts and leaders are expected to attend opening flags on Saturday morning at 8:30 AM at the flagpole. Units are encouraged to display their troop and patrol flags in their campground areas.

## **Lost & Found**

A SCOUT IS TRUSTWORTHY. Please see someone in the headquarters area if you have lost or found something.

## **Equipment List**

The equipment needed for a good trail to First Class Skills Weekend is the same as which is needed for a normal campout. The Boy Scout Handbook has a simplified list of minimum equipment. Do not forget the 10 essentials. Please be prepared for wind, rain,

snow and freezing temperatures. Weather at Holter Lake can change within minutes.

## **Forbidden Items**

As with any Scout outing, and for reasons of courtesy and safety, these items are forbidden from the Trail to First Class Skills Weekend:

Weapons of any kind including; guns and ammunition, bows and arrows, slingshots and fireworks.

## **10 Essentials**

1. Pocket Knife
2. First-aid kit
3. Extra clothing
4. Flashlight or headlamp with extra batteries
5. Rain gear
6. Water bottle
7. Map and compass
8. Matches and fire starter
9. Sun protection
10. Trail food

## **Clean Up & Check Out**

Check out will be on Sunday morning. The BLM has let us use their land generously. Because they do not charge us to use the campground at this time of year, we ask that you leave it better than you found it. WE ask that each Troop do their part by policing their campsite before leaving and please pick up any trash noticed anywhere in the campground to help out the BLM.

All units must check out at the headquarters area before leaving.