

Scouts BSA 2020 Summer Experience

Frequently Asked Questions (Updated 5/29)

Q: What merit badges and activities are being offered?

A: Each week there will be a list of opportunities to participate in: merit badges, rank advancement (Tenderfoot, 2nd Class, 1st Class - similar to Eagle Quest), adventures, and activities outside of advancement (i.e. campfires, interactive nature hikes, competitions, activities, etc.). A Scout will be limited to participating in 4 merit badges per week. In addition, they can sign-up for rank advancement opportunities and Firecrafter Camper and Woodsman. Advancement and Firecrafter do not count towards your four total. The detailed merit badge and activity schedule is available in the attachments section of this site.

Q: What are the daily camp experiences?

A: Each Session, your Scout will have access to fun adventures, videos, and activities that help bring the spirit of camp to you. Some examples include a live campfire program, tours of camp, competitions, STEM experiments, and other fun activities. There is no sign-up required for these activities. Your Scout will have access through the Google Classroom platform to enjoy, according to their schedule. We feel these daily camp experiences are extremely important! These are part of what makes this program unique!

Q: Will the program be the same each week?

A: Each week has very similar offerings. However, each week has more activities available (merit badges, rank advancement, and other activities) than a Scout will have time to participate in. So, your Scout may want to participate in a 2nd week/encore week. In addition, based upon feedback from you, we may adjust the program over the course of the summer. For example, if we receive feedback that Scouts would like to see a particular merit badge offered we may be able add that particular program.

Q: What does the daily schedule look like?

A: Each Merit Badge will be a combination of live facilitated meetings AND work that will need to be completed independently. A Scout will need to attend all scheduled live meetings (for the live meeting time option you select) in order to complete all of the requirements covered. Live meetings occur on every day listed for each time option. For example, if you take First Aid Merit Badge and you select the 10:00am option, you will have live meetings on Monday from 10am-11am, Wednesday 10am-11am, and Friday from 10am-11am; you must attend all three. As another example, if you take Art Merit Badge, there is only the 1pm option to select, so you will have live meetings on Tuesday from 1pm-2pm, and Thursday from 1pm-2pm; you must attend both. In addition, for both examples there is additional work that will need to be completed outside of those scheduled live sessions.

Q: How does Rank Advancement work?

A: Rank Advancement (defined as rank requirements found in the Tenderfoot, 2nd Class, and 1st Class ranks) will be administered by two methods. The first method is guided instructional videos and activities. Your Scout will have access to these when they sign-up for a particular rank. For example, if your Scout needs to complete Tenderfoot Requirement 3a they will have access to instructional videos. The second method is instruction via Live Meetings. These Live Meeting Sessions will be open format and any requirement (that can be completed virtually) can be covered. Your Scout will have access to both live meeting sessions to get additional help or work on additional requirements. They can attend one, both, or neither depending upon their needs. These open live meeting sessions will be similar to the "office hours"

concept. Each Rank Advancement program will cover only carefully selected requirements. Finally, the counselor will be teaching the skill to your Scout; each Troop has various requirements in order to officially sign-off the skill in your Scout's Handbook. Sign-up is required for Rank Advancement, but does not count towards the four merit badge maximum.

Q: How much time will my Scout need to spend per day on each Merit Badge?

A: In the published program schedule, there is a column titled "Daily Time Commitment". This is the estimated amount of time that your Scout will be spending on that particular merit badge each day in order to complete the requirements. This includes the time in the live sessions and independently outside of the live session. Please remember that offering these merit badges in this format has not been done before, so these are estimates. We will adjust these throughout the summer if needed.

Q: Will there be opportunities for both new Scouts and older Scouts?

A: Absolutely! The schedule offers a good mix of badges that are targeted for newer Scouts (i.e. First Aid) and for older Scouts (i.e. Communications). In addition, we have rank advancement opportunities (Tenderfoot/ 2nd Class/ 1st Class) similar to Eagle Quest. There are also exciting adventure type activities that all Scouts will be interested in.

Q: Will this be all online?

A: While there are no in-person sessions, Merit Badges will be a combination of online, in your backyard, and in your neighborhood (i.e. head down to a nearby pond; go on a hike at your nearest park or in the neighborhood with your family, etc.) all facilitated on the Google Classroom and Zoom platforms in small groups by Ransburg staff. We understand that Scouts and families have been working diligently on school E-Learning over the last several weeks, and have kept that in mind with the development of this program.

Q: Is there a capacity?

A: Yes, there is a per week program capacity. However, each merit badge session or activity will be facilitated in a small group format (think small groups of 10-25).

Q: Has planning already started?

A: Yes, planning has started! Our group of camp staff, who are facilitating this program arrived at Ransburg on May 18th to begin development of the program in earnest, so that they are ready for you and your Scout during the first session (June 8-12).

Q: Who is leading and facilitating this program?

A: A smaller group of Ransburg Camp Staff will be facilitating this program from Ransburg Scout Reservation. This group has over 160 years of summer camp experience and several are year-round educators.

Q: How do I pick the week for my Scout's Encore/2nd Week?

A: You will need to make a separate/2nd registration under the particular week you would like your Scout to attend for their second week. If you have already added an Encore Week to your initial registration, we can move that to the week you would like to attend. Just let us know.