

# Advancement Update

## **Cub Scouts – *Bobcat badge***

Effective June 1, 2006, a Tiger Cub must earn the Cub Scouting Bobcat badge as his first badge of rank after joining a pack. Earning the Bobcat badge is then followed by earning the Tiger Cub badge.

When joining Cub Scouts, regardless of age or grade, a boy must earn his Bobcat badge before he can advance to Tiger Cub, Wolf, Bear, or Webelos rank. A boy must complete the Bobcat requirements, which include:

- Learn and say the Cub Scout Motto, the Cub Scout Promise, and the Law of the Pack and tell what they mean;
- Show the Cub Scout sign, salute, and handshake and tell what they mean; and
- Show that you understand and believe that it is important to be honest and trustworthy

## **Boy Scouts - *First Class Rank***

Effective January 1, 2006, Scouts already working on their First Class rank (that means they have already joined a Troop and are a Scout) prior to this date will have until June 30, 2006, to complete the rank without fulfilling new requirement #11. Beginning July 1, 2006, all Scouts earning the First Class rank must complete the new requirement.

Questions were raised as to when does a Scout begin “working on their First Class rank”? A clarification from the National BSA Office resolved the issue. Here is their response: “A boy who is working on Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class (and holds a rank less than First Class) is working on First Class. He would have until the June 30<sup>th</sup> deadline to complete First Class, or he would then have to complete under the new requirements.

**Requirement #11 – Tell someone who is eligible to join Boy Scouts, or an inactive Boy Scout, about your Troop’s activities. Invite him to a troop outing, activity, service project, or meeting. Tell him how to join, or encourage the inactive Boy Scout to become active.**

Scouts Can Invite Friends Electronically - A new feature called the e-card is available to Scouts and Leaders on the [www.thescoutzone.org](http://www.thescoutzone.org) Web site. This fun and easy activity will help a Scout complete new First Class requirement #11 that states he must invite a friend to a troop meeting or activity. Scouts should follow these instructions:

1. Go to [www.thescoutzone.org](http://www.thescoutzone.org)
2. Click on “Tell a Friend”
3. Enter your name and your friend’s name and e-mail addresses in the boxes.
4. Select images of activities you think would be fun and interesting for your friend to do
5. Choose the music and the message you would like to send.
6. Preview your e-card and send it to your friend.

## **Boy Scouts – *Cooking Requirements modified due to fire bans***

Fire bans, some lasting as long as six months or more in a significant portion of the country, have prevented many Scouts from completing Tenderfoot requirement #3 and Second Class requirements #2e, #2f, and, in particular, #2g (which calls for cooking a meal “over an open fire”). Because of fire bans, a substitution has been approved by the National BSA Advancement Committee allowing Scouts to use a cook stove, charcoal, or, when no outdoor cooking is permitted, a kitchen stove. The substitutions are allowed **ONLY** during periods of fire bans as issued by appropriate authorities.

## **Boy Scouts - *2006 Merit Badge Changes***

The following Merit Badges have **MAJOR** requirement changes:

|                          |                      |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| American Cultures        | Genealogy            |
| American Heritage        | Geology              |
| American Labor           | Photography          |
| Camping                  | Pioneering           |
| Citizenship in the World | Plant Science        |
| Computers                | Public Health        |
| Crime Prevention         | Pulp and Paper       |
| Disabilities Awareness   | Scholarship          |
| Energy                   | Truck Transportation |
| Environment Science      | Veterinary Medicine  |
| Forestry                 | Whitewater           |

The following Merit Badges have **MINOR** requirement changes:

|            |                             |
|------------|-----------------------------|
| Astronomy  | Reptile and Amphibian Study |
| Bird Study | Shotgun Shooting            |
| Chemistry  | Skating                     |

### **NEW** Merit Badges for 2006

Composite Materials

**NOTE:** The annual Boy Scout Requirements book contains the most current information when published each January. As new merit badge pamphlets are subsequently issued, containing new requirements, Scouts have the option of using the new requirements as soon as the pamphlets are available, or they may start work using the old requirements until the next edition of Boy Scout Requirements is issued. If a Scout starts work after the next edition of Boy Scout Requirements is issued, he must use the new requirements. In any case, once a boy starts with a set of requirements he may continue using them until he completes the badge. If he started the badge using the old requirements, he also has the option of switching to the new requirements (which may mean starting over in some cases). So long as he meets all of the requirements (either old or new) he can earn the badge. However, he can **NOT** use part of the old requirements and part of the new requirements.

## **Boy Scouts – *A note on Eagle Advancement Requirements***

A Scout may “carry out a Scoutmaster-assigned project to help the Troop” as a replacement for serving actively in a position of responsibility for advancement to **STAR** and **LIFE ONLY**. This option is **NOT** available for Eagle Scout candidates.