



A Guiding Hand for Younger Scouts

A boy's first summer camp experience is a pivotal time in his Scouting career. Boys who reach the rank of First Class within their first year as a Scout are more likely to stay in Scouting and will quickly be on their way to filling leadership roles in the troop.

The Camp Friedlander Trailblazer program gives first-year campers a jump-start towards their first rank advancements of Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class. We pride ourselves on having the most effective first-year-camper program around. The knowledgeable staff and many outdoor resources available at Camp Friedlander not only teach Scouts the skills they need to meet requirements, but give them hands-on experience. Our Trailblazer program will accomplish these objectives:

- Teach and improve basic Scout skills.
- Teach the patrol method through practical application.
- Provide instruction on requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class in the following skill areas: woods tools, physical fitness, first aid, nature, ropes, cooking, camping, orienteering, swimming, and Scout skills.

Trailblazer is a half-day program. Participants will be placed in patrols with others who need to complete similar rank requirements. This will allow the first-year camper the opportunity to also earn merit badges during the other half of the day.

Please note, Trailblazer counselors will not sign off on rank requirements in a Scout's handbook. This is the responsibility of the Scoutmaster. We will, however, provide a list of requirements that were reviewed with your Scout along with daily attendance records. These tools can be used during the Scoutmaster conference required for rank advancement, where the Scoutmaster should review and sign off requirements that were met satisfactorily.

Overnighter

On Thursday night, Scouts participating in Trailblazer have the option of going on the much-anticipated outpost. This night away from the troop in a remote part of the camp puts Scouting skills to the test. Not only will campers meet some of the outdoor requirements for the early ranks, they will also have a great time and feel a sense of achievement for overcoming a new challenge. Trailblazers will spend the night away from the troop, preparing them for the Scouting adventure ahead.

Participants should bring personal gear they would normally take on a weekend campout. This includes a tent (small backpacking style recommended), ground cloth, sleeping bag, canteen or water bottle, first aid kit, flashlight, and a compass. Tents can be shared with other Trailblazer participants. Scouts will load their gear onto a truck then take a short hike to the outpost site.

Scheduling Trailblazer

Scouts should register for either the morning or afternoon session of Trailblazer. Each session will be three hours long and lasts all five days of the week. **Scouts should complete the requirements table available online and submit it on or before the 10-day out meeting.** They will then be grouped in patrols with other Scouts who need to complete similar requirements. In this way, each Scout will be given the best opportunity to work toward completion of the ranks they need.