REQUIREMENTS BY SKILL

Camping & Outdoor Ethics Requirements by Rank

Gear, campout counts, campsite selection, and three outdoor ethics frameworks.

Camping is the backbone of the early ranks. The activity counts are cumulative since joining, so the same campout can count toward both Second Class and First Class totals. That's why steady outdoor programming matters more than any single event. Each rank also has an outdoor ethics requirement: the Outdoor Code, Leave No Trace, then Tread Lightly! Each must be tied to a different outing.

> Requirements are paraphrased for planning, and numbers follow the current Scouts BSA Requirements book. Verify wording at scouting.org before signing off.

How Camping & Outdoor Ethics Builds Across the Ranks

Scout

1f	Repeat the Outdoor Code from memory and explain what it means to you.

Tenderfoot

1a	Show up prepared for an overnight campout, and show your personal and camping gear. **Sign-off:** Have them walk you through their pack before the campout. Use a packing list as the checklist.
1b	Spend at least one night on a patrol or troop campout, sleeping in a tent you helped pitch.
1c	Explain how you practiced the Outdoor Code on a campout or outing.

Second Class

1a Since joining, take part in five troop or patrol activities (not meetings), three of them overnight campouts. On at least two, sleep in a tent you pitched or a shelter you helped build.

Sign-off: Keep a running activity log. These counts are where records most often fall apart.

1b Explain the principles of Leave No Trace and how you practiced them on an outing different from the one used for Tenderfoot 1c.

1c On a campout, choose a patrol site, recommend it to a youth leader, and explain the factors in choosing a site and tent spots.

Sign-off: Let the scout actually pick the site, even if a leader would have chosen differently.

First Class

1a Since joining, take part in ten troop or patrol activities (not meetings), six of them overnight campouts. On at least five, sleep in a tent you pitched or a shelter you helped build.

1b Explain the principles of Tread Lightly! and how you practiced them on an outing different from the ones used for Tenderfoot 1c and Second Class 1b.

9c Track the trash you produce on an outing, plan how to reduce it next time, put the plan into action, and compare the results.

After First Class

Camping merit badge is Eagle-required and has its own nights-camped requirement, so the troop's camping record keeps mattering through Eagle. Backpacking and Wilderness Survival are natural follow-ons.

Camping EAGLE — Eagle-required. Has its own camping-nights requirement, so keep the log going.

Backpacking — Takes campout skills onto the trail.

Wilderness Survival — A popular summer camp badge that builds on campsite skills.

Can rank work count toward a merit badge? Sometimes. Under the Guide to Advancement (4.2.3.6), one activity can count for both when the two requirements match exactly and have the same purpose, like camping nights for the ranks and the Camping merit badge. For safety skills such as first aid and CPR, the counselor should be satisfied the Scout still remembers what was learned. When requirements only look alike, the Scout still does each one's own work. The unit leader or merit badge counselor makes the call.

Building Camping Into the Calendar

This isn't a single session. It's an annual planning approach for the PLC.

1. **Plan at least 6 overnights a year**
   That's what a new scout needs to reach First Class 1a within their first year or so. A troop that camps quarterly will leave scouts stuck at Second Class.

2. **Assign an ethics focus per campout**
   Rotate Outdoor Code, Leave No Trace, and Tread Lightly! across outings so each scout has a separate outing for each rank (T 1c, SC 1b, FC 1b).

3. **Gear check before the first campout**
   New scouts show their packed gear at the meeting before (T 1a). Use the troop packing list.

4. **Let scouts choose sites**
   At each campout, give a Second Class candidate the job of recommending the patrol site (SC 1c).

5. **Log every activity**
   Assign the troop scribe or an adult to record attendance at every outing. Second Class and First Class counts depend on it.

Signing It Off

Activity counts are cumulative from the day the scout joined, and the same outing can count toward both Second Class and First Class totals.

Troop or patrol meetings don't count as activities. Service projects, hikes, and other outings generally do.

Each outdoor ethics requirement needs its own outing. Note which outing was used for which rank.

Common Mistakes

Not tracking outings, then trying to reconstruct attendance months later.

Using the same campout for the Outdoor Code, Leave No Trace, and Tread Lightly! requirements.

Adults pitching tents for new scouts. Tenderfoot 1b needs a tent the scout helped pitch.