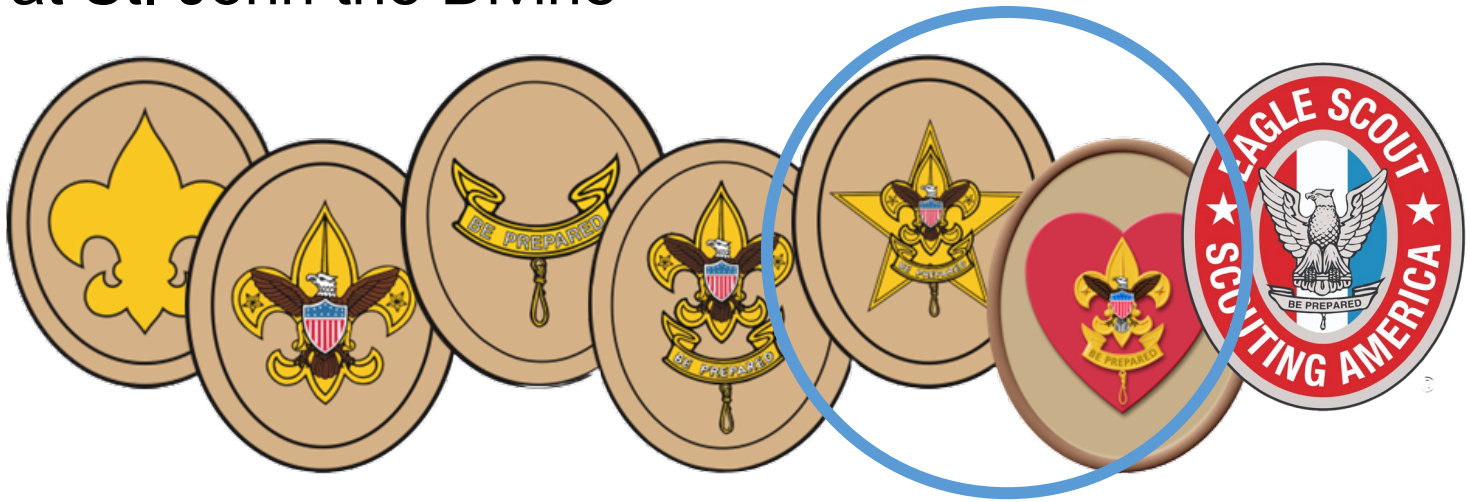
Troop 54
First Class to Life Workshop

October 26, 2026, 6:00 p.m.
at St. John the Divine



Revised October 29, 2026

Scouting America

Objectives

- Discuss differences from First Class Trail (FCT)
- Review the requirements for Star & Life rank
- Understand time commitments for
  - Leadership, active participation and service hours
- Merit Badge overview
- Role of Parents and other Adults
- Q&A

What's Changing

First Class Trail

- Highly structured program
- Focus on Scout skills
- "Box checking"



Star & Life

- Leadership, aka "PoR"
- Active participation
- Service hours, incl. conservation
- Merit badges

STAR RANK REQUIREMENTS



✓			LEADER INITIAL & DATE
	1.	Be active in your troop for at least four months as a First Class Scout. *(See page 24.)*	
	2.	As a First Class Scout, demonstrate Scout spirit by living the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Tell how you have done your duty to God and how you have lived the Scout Oath and Scout Law in your everyday life. *(See pages 11–16 and 23.)*	
	3.	Earn six merit badges, including any four from the required list for Eagle. You may choose any of the 18 merit badges on the required list for Eagle to fulfill this requirement. See Eagle rank requirement 3 for this list. *(See pages 28 and 416–420.)*	
		NAME OF MERIT BADGE — **DATE EARNED**	
		(Eagle-required)	
		(Eagle-required)	
		(Eagle-required)	
		(Eagle-required)	
	4.	While a First Class Scout, participate in six hours of service through one or more service projects approved by your Scoutmaster.	
	5.	While a First Class Scout, serve actively in your troop for four months in one or more of the following positions of responsibility (or carry out a Scoutmaster-approved leadership project to help the troop): *(See pages 422-425.)* **Scout troop.** Patrol leader, assistant senior patrol leader, senior patrol leader, troop guide, Order of the Arrow troop representative, den chief, scribe, librarian, historian, quartermaster, bugler, junior assistant Scoutmaster, chaplain aide, instructor, webmaster, or outdoor ethics guide.[6] **Venturing crew/Sea Scout ship.** President, vice president, secretary, treasurer, den chief, quartermaster, historian, guide, boatswain, boatswain's mate, yeoman, purser, storekeeper, chaplain aide, outdoor ethics guide, crew leader, media specialist, specialist or webmaster. **Lone Scout.** Leadership responsibility in your school, religious organization, club, or elsewhere in your community.	
	6a.	With your parent or guardian, complete the exercises in the pamphlet *How to Protect Your Children from Child Abuse: A Parent's Guide.*	
	6b.	With your parent or guardian's permission, view the Personal Safety Awareness videos.[7] *(See the pamphlet inserted inside the front cover.)*	
	7.	While a First Class Scout, participate in a Scoutmaster conference. *(See page 418.)*	
	8.	Successfully complete your board of review for the Star rank.[8] *(See page 414.)*	

LIFE RANK REQUIREMENTS



✓			LEADER INITIAL & DATE
	1.	Be active in your troop for at least six months as a Star Scout. *(See page 24.)*	
	2.	As a Star Scout, demonstrate Scout spirit by living the Scout Oath and Scout Law. Tell how you have done your duty to God and how you have lived the Scout Oath and Scout Law in your everyday life. *(See pages 11–16 and 23.)*	
	3.	Earn five more merit badges (so that you have 11 in all), including any three additional badges from the required list for Eagle. You may choose any of the 18 merit badges on the required list for Eagle to fulfill this requirement. See Eagle rank requirement 3 for this list. *(See pages 28 and 422–425.)*	
		NAME OF MERIT BADGE — **DATE EARNED**	
		(Eagle-required)	
		(Eagle-required)	
		(Eagle-required)	
	4.	While a Star Scout, participate in six hours of service through one or more service projects approved by your Scoutmaster. At least three hours of this service must be conservation-related.	
	5.	While a Star Scout, serve actively in your troop for six months in one or more of the following troop positions of responsibility (or carry out a Scoutmaster-approved leadership project to help the troop). *(See pages 422-425.)* **Scout troop.** Patrol leader, assistant senior patrol leader, senior patrol leader, troop guide, Order of the Arrow troop representative, den chief, scribe, librarian, historian, quartermaster, bugler, junior assistant Scoutmaster, chaplain aide, instructor, webmaster, or outdoor ethics guide.[9] **Venturing crew/Sea Scout ship.** President, vice president, secretary, treasurer, den chief, quartermaster, historian, guide, boatswain, boatswain's mate, yeoman, purser, storekeeper, chaplain aide, outdoor ethics guide, crew leader, media specialist, specialist or webmaster. **Lone Scout.** Leadership responsibility in your school, religious organization, club, or elsewhere in your community.	
	6.	While a Star Scout, use the Teaching EDGE method to teach another Scout (preferably younger than you) the skills from ONE of the following choices, so that the Scout is prepared to pass those requirements to their Scoutmaster's satisfaction. *(See page 38.)* **a.** Tenderfoot 4a and 4b (first aid) **b.** Second Class 2b, 2c, and 2d (cooking/tools) **c.** Second Class 3a and 3d (navigation) **d.** First Class 3a, 3b, 3c, and 3d (tools) **e.** First Class 4a and 4b (navigation) **f.** Second Class 6a and 6b (first aid) **g.** First Class 7a and 7b (first aid) **h.** Three requirements from one of the required Eagle merit badges, as approved by your Scoutmaster	
	7.	While a Star Scout, participate in a Scoutmaster conference. *(See page 418.)*	
	8.	Successfully complete your board of review for the Life rank.[8] *(See page 414.)*	

Rank Advancement Requirements

"First Class Trail (FCT)"

Rank	Skills (select examples)	Service	Leadership	Merit Badges
Scout	Oath, Law, Youth Protection	None	None	None
Tenderfoot	First Aid, Fitness, Knots Learn via EDGE method	1 hour	None	None
Second Class	Camping, Cooking, First Aid, Swimming, Personal Safety	2 hours	None	None
First Class	Navigation, Nature, Emergency, Citizenship	3 hours	None	None
Star	Personal Safety Awareness videos	6 hours	4 months	6 (4 Eagles)
Life	Teach "EDGE" method	6 hours	6 months	5 (3 Eagles)
Eagle		Project	6 months	10 (6 Eagles)

Scouting America

Position of Responsibility

Youth Leadership

Instructor*
Troop Guide*
Chaplain Aide
Troop Quartermaster
Den Chief

Patrol Leader's Council (PLC)

Senior Patrol Leader*
Assistant Senior Patrol Leader*
Patrol Leader*
Junior Assistant Scoutmaster*
Troop Scribe

Troop Historian
Troop Webmaster
Troop OA Representative
Outdoor Ethics Guide

- Positions are Scoutmaster-assigned or Elected by the Scouts
- Minimum Position of Responsibility (PoR) time of **4** months for **Star**, **6** months for **Life**
- Leadership is earned, not a given. Sign the Leadership Agreement and Job Responsibilities.
- Troop 54 encourages Scouts to hold more than one / single position for Star, Life, and Eagle credit

** Troop 54 requires Scouts to have completed NYLT training prior to accepting these positions.*

Active Participation definition

To satisfy the Active Participation requirement per the Troop 54 Handbook, a Scout must:

1. For each month (or a 30-day period equivalent) being counted, ***attend at least two "Troop Activities"***
   - Troop Activities can include Troop Meetings, Service Projects, First Class Trail and other Advancement Sessions, or Troop outdoor activities such as a climbing session or canoeing outing; Troop Activities does not include a merit badge class, Court of Honor, or Venture Crew/Cub Scout Pack or Den activity.
2. In at least half of the months being counted, ***attend one "Overnight Outdoor Activity"***:
   - Overnight Outdoor Activity includes, e.g., the Troop's monthly weekend campouts but does not include Cub Scout Pack or Venture Crew campouts. Attending an Overnight Outdoor Activity requires the Scout's presence and participation at the bulk of the activity/campout and must include staying overnight. Camping both Friday and Saturday night on a weekend campout constitutes one event (not two).
     - For **Star**, this would require **2 Overnight Outdoor Activities**
     - For **Life and Eagle** this would require **3 Overnight Outdoor Activities each**
     - Participation in a week-long summer camp, NYLT or NAYLE (including participation as Staff) will satisfy both the Troop Activity and Overnight Outdoor Activity for a one-month equivalent.
3. During each rank period (e.g., Star to Life, and Life to Eagle) **attend at least one Court of Honor**.
4. During the period from First Class thru Eagle, at least one of the Overnight Outdoor Activities must **participate in one Troop 54 summer camp, NYLT or NAYLE.**

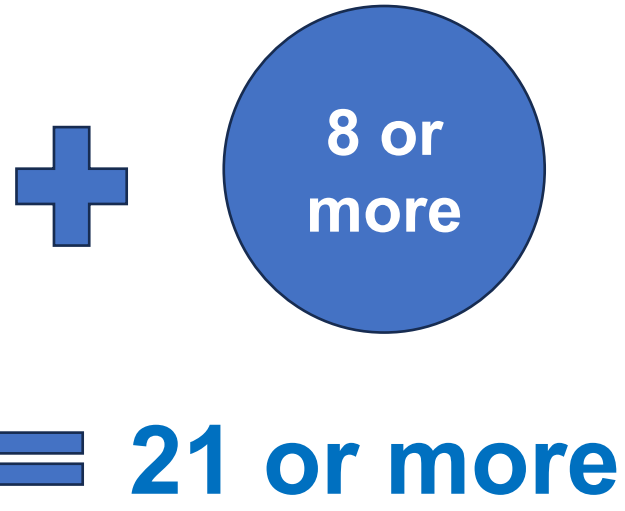
CLICK: Troop Handbook & Policies – Troop 54 Houston Texas

Service Hours

- **Community service is an integral part of the Scouting program**, designed primarily to aid development of character and citizenship.
- **Scouts are required to take part in service projects** for at least a specified number of hours for advancement to Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, and Life ranks.
  - **Star Rank requires 6 hours**
  - **Life Rank requires 6 hours; 3 hours of which must be Conservation-related**
- Scouts can earn creditable service hours for these ranks by taking part in any of the following:
  - **Troop service projects**;
  - **Patrol good turns** approved in advance by the Patrol Leaders' Council to help qualify a patrol for the National Honor Patrol Award;
  - **Eagle leadership service projects** organized by Scouts who are working on their Eagle rank (participation in Eagle projects is particularly encouraged);
  - **Order of the Arrow service projects**, other than those as part of a Scout's Ordeal; and
  - Other service projects, which must be approved **in advance by the Scoutmaster.**
- **Service to the Troop itself**, such as cleaning the Troop storage shed, **does not qualify** as service hours for rank advancement.
- **Scouts should not double count service hours** for rank advancement, such as those used for merit badge requirements, 50-mile awards, school requirements, or church requirements.
- **Announcements** and sign-ups for service projects generally happen **at Troop meetings, Troop newsletter**, **or via the Troop website**

Merit Badges

Eagle Required List = 13	
Camping	Emergency Preparedness OR Lifesaving
Citizenship in the Community	Environmental Science OR Sustainability
Citizenship in the Nation	Family Life
Citizenship in the World	First Aid
~~Citizenship in Society*~~	Personal Fitness
Communications	Personal Management
Cooking	Swimming OR Hiking OR Cycling



**Note: Effective 27-Feb-26 the Citizenship in Society is no longer required; decreasing the Required MB list from 14 to 13 and returning the number you can choose yourself from 7 to 8. Additionally, effective 31-Dec-26 Citizenship in Society will be fully discontinued.*

Merit Badge Offerings: Merit Badge summer camps, District Merit Badge Fair, Campsgiving at Strake, Winter Camp at Strake, Houston Museum of Science, Houston Health Museum, other Houston museums, Troop 54 MB Counselors (individual and classes)

Merit Badge Warning

Be mindful of merit badges that require -

- Meeting with a counselor
- Keeping a log for a period of time
  - Family Life (90 days)
  - Personal Fitness (12 weeks)
  - Personal Management (13 weeks)
- This is the time to look at any partials you have on Eagle-required merit badges.
- You cannot log ten Camping Nights over one weekend!

Click to see the troop's recommended sequence:

Merit Badges – Troop 54 Houston Texas



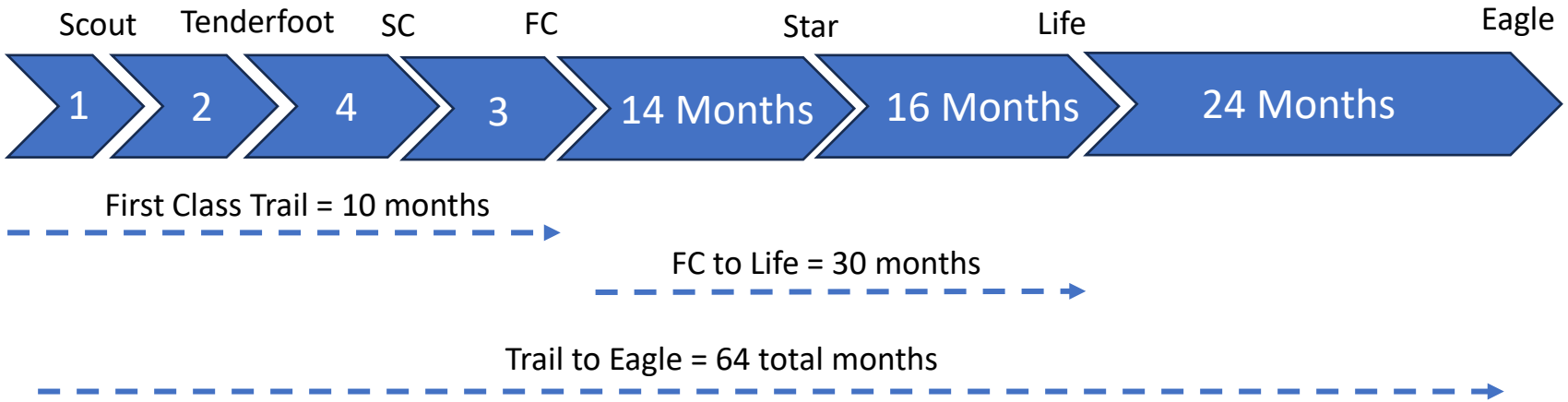
Role of Parents and other Adults

- Parents, PASMs, and other Scouts continue to mentor & teach
- Merit Badge (MB) Counselors & Scoutmaster are doing the sign-offs

	Set Own Pace	Coach, Advise, Mentor	Teach Skills / "EDGE" Method	Sign-off MB Requirements	Conduct SMC & Sign-off Rank Requirements
Scout (self)	Yes	- -	- -	- -	- -
Parent	- -	Yes	Yes	- -	- -
PASM	- -	Yes	Yes	- -	- -
MB Counselor	- -	- -	Yes	**Yes**	- -
Other Scouts	- -	Yes	Yes	- -	- -
Scoutmaster	- -	Yes	Yes	- -	**Yes**

Typical Time to Advance





Scouts who regularly & actively participate in Troop 54 scheduled activities (**and attend summer camp**) should be able to advance at this typical pace.

Q&A



Scouting America™