

## Merit Badges and Advancement Opportunities

Advancement is one of the primary reasons youth remain in Scouting. Many merit badges cannot be completed during program time alone and may require extra "homework," so Scoutmasters are encouraged to consider the amount of work required and only sign Scouts up for no more than four merit badge sessions.

### Pioneer Scouts (First Year Camper)

Pioneer Scouts are new Scouts or Scouts attending summer camp for the first time. Camp McKee now offers a schedule specific to Pioneer Scouts that has been built around the core skills and requirements needed to complete the Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class ranks. The schedule offers skill classes for each rank and a variety of merit badges that can usually be completed at camp with no prerequisites. These classes were chosen so Pioneer Scouts can maximize their completion success.

Scouts may take any combination of merit badge and rank skill classes offered on the Pioneer Schedule. Customize the schedule to the Scout—if a Scout has completed Tenderfoot Rank before they attend camp, they do not need to take that skill class at camp. Scouts should not sign up for merit badges outside of those listed below unless approved by the camp or program director. Check out the Evening Program schedule for when Pioneer Scouts can participate in evening events at all areas designed for them and them only.



Regarding Swimming merit badge, if a Scout has issues passing a swimmer's test, we encourage them to either sign up for instructional swim or another merit badge.

#### ADDITIONAL FEES:

The **Space Exploration** class registration fee of \$15 covers the cost of a rocket/engine kit. This fee is charged at the time of registration before units arrive at camp. Kits will be provided to every Scout that pre-registers for this class.

**Leatherworking** also requires a kit, however, Scouts have the option of choosing one of many kits. These kits usually cost between \$10 and \$15 and must be purchased at the trading post once the Scout gets to camp. It will be the responsibility of the Scout to choose and purchase a kit for this class.

## Pioneer Scout Class Schedule 2024

Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5	Session 6
8:30-9:20 am	9:30-10:20 am	10:30-11:20 am	1:30-2:20 pm	2:30-3:20 pm	3:30-4:20 pm
<b>PIONEER AREA</b>					
Tenderfoot Rank Skills	Tenderfoot Rank Skills	First Aid Rank Skills	Tenderfoot Rank Skill	Tenderfoot Rank Skill	First Aid Rank Skills
First Class Rank Skills	Skills Second Class Rank Skills	Second Class Rank Skills	First Class Rank Skills	Second Class Rank Skills	Second Class Rank Skills
<b>WATERFRONT AREA</b>					
		<b>Swimming</b>	<b>Swimming</b>		<b>Swimming</b>
<b>FIELD SPORTS</b>					
Archery			Archery		
<b>HANDICRAFTS</b>					
	Art			Art	
	Leatherwork			Leatherwork	Leatherwork
<b>STEM AREA</b>					
					Space Exploration

## Merit Badge Requirement Details\*

Merit badge classes are “first come, first served,” so sign up for them as soon as possible! Classes are capped and may turn away Scouts as needed to ensure that the class is being taught as safely as possible and that all the Scouts will complete the merit badge.

Some merit badges have requirements that cannot be completed at camp. These requirements will need to be done either before or after camp for the merit badge to be completed. With new merit badges being added to the schedule, we will be posting an updated class catalog with recommended ages and prerequisites, separate from the leader’s guide, on the [summer camp page](#) of the [bgbsa.org](#) website in February!

## Merit Badge Class Schedule for 2024

Classes listed in **BOLD** print are Eagle required merit badges

Session 1	Session 2	Session 3	Session 4	Session 5	Session 6
8:30-9:20 am	9:30-10:20 am	10:30-11:20 am	1:30-2:20 pm	2:30-3:20 pm	3:30-4:20 pm
<b>ECOLOGY</b>					
<b>Environmental Science</b>					Sustainability
Nature & Mammal Study	Reptile & Amphibian Study	Weather	Fish and Wildlife Management		Forestry
<b>WATERFRONT</b>					
Kayaking	Kayaking		Mile Swim	<b>Swimming</b>	Instructional Swim
Rowing	<b>Lifesaving</b>		Canoeing		Small Boat Sailing
Canoeing	Small Boat Sailing		Lifeguard Certification (Lifeguard hours)		
	BSA Lifeguard Certification (10:00 am - 4:00 pm daily)				
	<b>Swimming</b>				
<b>OUTDOOR SKILLS</b>					
Orienteering	<b>Cooking</b>		<b>Cooking</b>		<b>Camping</b>
	Geocaching		Wilderness Survival		Pioneering
<b>CLIMBING AND MOUNTAIN BIKING</b>					
Mountain Biking					
Climbing			Climbing		
<b>FIELD SPORTS</b>					
Rifle	Rifle				Pistol
	Archery			Archery	Archery
Shotgun	Shotgun	Shotgun	Shotgun	Shotgun	Shotgun
<b>HANDICRAFTS</b>					
Model Design and Building	Art	Textiles			Indian Lore
Woodcarving	Leatherwork	Woodcarving	Sculpture		
<b>EAGLE'S NEST</b>					
<b>Citizenship in the World</b>	<b>Cit. in the Nation/Amer. Heritage</b>				<b>Personal Management</b>
	<b>Communication/Public Speaking</b>		<b>Emergency Prep.</b>		
<b>FIRST AID</b>					
	<b>First Aid</b>			<b>First Aid</b>	
<b>STEM</b>					
Space Exploration	Programming		Nuclear Science		Astronomy
Game Design		Electricity/Electronics		Chemistry	