

PATH TO FIRST CLASS

NAME : _____

TROOP : _____

The path to your First Class Badge must not be seen as a separate "badge passing" activity, but should become an integral part of all your Scouting activities. There are numerous ways of linking your badge progress to the Troop Programme, and combining this with other Scoutcraft or Interest Badges. Also look for opportunities to involve your fellow Scouts - either doing the same requirement, or one linked to it. There are many ways of making badge requirements into full Patrol activities, which could then count towards your Star Patrol Award.

LINKING YOUR BADGE ADVANCEMENT TO THE SCOUT PROGRAMME:

All requirements for the Advancement Badges (Pathfinder, Adventurer, First Class, etc) are designed that they can be passed as part of your normal Scouting activities. There should be minimal need for special "evaluation" sessions as in previous years, as these have now become activities or requirements. Look at your Troop programme to identify opportunities where you can pass requirements. Outdoor activities, like camps and hikes in particular, offer a vast potential for passing badge requirements.

LINKING ADVANCEMENT BADGES TO OTHER BADGES:

Look out for opportunities for passing Scoutcraft Badges, Interest Badges or Challenge Awards simultaneously. *The Scout Trail* and *The Scout Target* recommend certain badges to consider for each badge requirement. The same activity can be used to complete parts of different badges, provided that the specific requirements are met. For example, the Other cultures and Joint Scouting (1st Class 8 + 9) can also be used to pass the World Friendship Interest Badge at the same time.

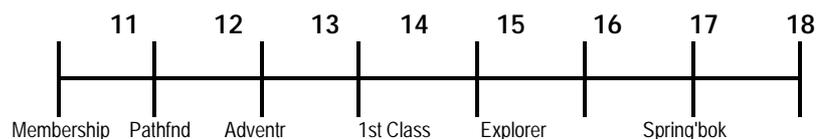
LINKING UP WITH OTHER SCOUTS AND THEIR OWN BADGE ADVANCEMENT:

Most badge requirements include some involvement by other Scouts. In these cases, see whether there is scope for the other Scouts to complete certain of their own badge requirements at the same time. Numerous opportunities exist to link activities in this way, for example the requirements for camping, hiking, cooking, veldcraft, nature conservation, etc. In many cases Scouts can link up to do the same badge requirement on a joint activity. Alternatively, other Scouts may wish to complete other sections at the same time. This planner shows just some of the areas where different badge requirements can be linked to yours. Help your Patrol advance in their badges by using these opportunities to the full.

LINKING BADGE REQUIREMENTS TO PATROL ACTIVITIES:

As you progress further towards the First Class Badge, you will note that many of the requirements can be used as the basis of a full Patrol activity. Here is another great opportunity to be giving your Patrol quality Scouting, while completing your badge requirements at the same time. Link these Patrol activities in as part of your Star Patrol Award.

CHECK WHETHER YOU ARE ON TRACK BY COMPARING YOUR AGE/BADGE LEVEL:



If your own age is further left on the scale than your current badge level, then you are well on track to earning the Springbok Scout Badge. If your age is further to the right than your badge level, you could be falling behind, and have some catching up to do to get back on track. It's not too late if you really set your goals now!