

CLEMENTS SCOUT RANCH



**FIRST YEAR CAMPER
TRAIL TO FIRST CLASS
ADDENDUM**



TRAIL TO FIRST CLASS and FIRST YEAR CAMPER “RANGER” PROGRAM

This year Clements Scout Ranch will be expanding the options for our scouts that are attending their first summer camp experience. If you are returning to our camp you will find familiarity with the Ranger program, an all day, all encompassing program designed for the ten to eleven year old. However we have listened to your comments and are adding an additional program this year. This year we will be offering requirement specific courses that are designed to free up the options for those boys who may not need the guidance of an all day program.

RANGER PROGRAM

This program is intended for your first year Scouts. Monday the groups will start in the Ranger area where they will be split into patrols where a Life or Eagle Scout will serve as a patrol guide. This patrol guide will expose them to basic Scout skills; the patrol method will be emphasized. Our staff will provide adequate structure and supervision to your Scouts giving them a head start into mainstream Scouting.

Wednesday each boy will be given a hiking staff that he should keep with him all week. This staff will be the basis of many of the skills he will learn. On this staff, he will keep, in the form of beads, a record of what he has accomplished during the week. We believe that instant recognition is a valuable tool, especially to boys in this age range, and their staff will help them display the achievements they have earned.

There are several criteria that are suggested before a boy enters the Ranger program. First of all, age plays an important role. Experience has proven that boys older than 12 or 13 generally benefit less from this program. Another consideration to be made prior to enrolling in the Ranger program is the time that the boy has actually been in Scouting. This program was designed primarily for those who have been in boy Scouts less than 6 months.

The Ranger program lasts the duration of the week, from 9am to 4pm each day, and includes a wide variety of games, activities, and lessons. During this time, your Scouts will also have opportunities to earn several merit badges, in sessions taught specifically to First Year Campers. All of the activities and events promote great Scouting spirit, as well as a great sense of accomplishment.

We know that many boys and parents expect summer camp to be an opportunity to earn merit badges. Although our program is an all day program, we have built into it the teaching of several “first year” merit badges. We will teach, to classes made up of only first year camper patrols, swimming, basketry, and leatherwork. **For the supplies used, we do charge and extra \$15** for all kids taking the first year camper program.

No requirements will be signed off in the Ranger program. At the start of the week, all boys will be given a “passport” that lists all of the sessions that will be taught. The Scoutmasters will be given a translation to let them know which requirements are taught with each session. It is the Scoutmasters’ responsibility to go over these skills with the Scout and decide if advancement requirements have been covered.

A pocketknife, poncho, flashlight, and a canteen full of water, are essential.

If boys have a compass, that will also come in useful. Boy should also be prepared to have fun. Adults are welcome to attend with the boys, but all activities will be based around promoting the patrol method among the boys.

Trail to First Class

In this all new option, your first year scout will decide before they come to camp whether or not they want to sign up for an all day program or individual rank classes in the new TFC area. In this program if a scout has already earned the tenderfoot rank before coming to camp, he can specifically sign up for hourly classes offered for Tenderfoot, Second Class and/or First Class rank. He is then encouraged to take other “first year” merit badges during the remainder of his day.

There will be specific instruction time set aside to address the requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class on an hourly basis in the morning. There are no requirements for participation, and a scout may participate in one, two or all three sessions. The requirements that will be covered are similar in content to the all-day course, and like the Ranger Program, our staff will not actually be signing off any requirements. Again, it remains the Scoutmasters’