

Outdoor Overachievers

Scouts don't need to be told that the great outdoors is, well, great, but now they have five new reasons to get out there and master outdoor skills.

The reasons: New award badges in Camping, Hiking, Riding, Aquatics, and Adventure debut this year. To earn the awards, Scouts must complete:

- Relevant merit badges that vary for each award.
- The First Class rank.
- Leave No Trace requirements.
- Activities measured by nights of camping, miles of hiking, miles of horseback riding, hours on or in the water, and other adventure activities.

The fun doesn't end with the five badges. Also new this year is the National Medal for Outdoor Achievement, which will be the highest outdoor adventure award in Scouting. The requirements for that medal are:

- Complete all five National Outdoor Award badges.
- Earn four additional outdoor merit badges.
- Receive training in Wilderness First Aid.
- Finish the Boy Scout Leave No Trace Trainer certification.
- Plan and lead a unit outing or serve as a youth staff member at a council summer camp.

See detailed requirements and application forms at myscouting.org.

(from <http://www.scoutingmagazine.org/issues/1003/d-trailhead.html>)

(the link to myscouting.org does not seem to provide any additional information)