

# Butte Creek Scout Ranch

## Trail to First Class Leader's Guide

Welcome to the Butte Creek Scout Ranch Trail to First Class. Scouts follow the trail, using the compass headings on the Scout's Instruction Sheet, to visit various stations at which they can complete requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class ranks. Additional requirements may be completed in your campsite.

**IMPORTANT:** Please have the Scouts read over their instruction sheet before they start the trail. They need to plan which requirements they'd like to complete and bring the materials required for those requirements. No supplies are provided on the trail. At a minimum they will need their Boy Scout Handbook and a compass. They should also have their ten essentials as described in the Scout Handbook.

Hiking this trail can take all day, depending on the number of Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class requirements the Scouts need to complete. An option is to start the trail in the morning and bring a lunch. Do not expect to complete all of the requirements in one day. Scouts do not need to hike the entire trail unless they need to complete Second Class requirement 1b - a five mile hike. Scouts need to plan their time.

**Requirements To Be Done In Your Campsite:** The camping and cooking requirements can not be done on the Trail to First Class. In addition, the following requirements can be completed in your camp site:

Tenderfoot #6 - Three flagpoles are available in Adirondack area, plus there is a flag pole near the log cabin.

Tenderfoot # 8 - Patrol name, yell and flag.

Second Class #2c & 2d - If the ground is muddy, there are now three stations in the Adirondack area where railroad ties have been placed in the ground to provide a firm base for an ax yard. Each is fairly close (20-30 feet) to each of the three campfire rings.

Second Class #2e & 2f - Using a stove and lighting a fire.

Second class #3 - Participate in a flag ceremony (see #6 above).

The following requirements can be worked on throughout the entire Trail to First Class and throughout camp:

Second Class #1b - The trail is five miles long and requires the use of a compass and map.

Second class #5 - Show evidence of at least ten kinds of wild animals: There are many small animals in camp such mice, squirrels, moles and rabbits (rabbits are most likely to be seen on the access road to the activity field, located east of town), as well as fish (in the pond), birds, deer (early morning or evening) and other wild animals.

First Class #6 - Identify or show evidence of at least ten kinds of native plants.

## Using the Trail to First Class:

Each Scout, who is not First Class, should have the one page instruction sheet and map (the map is on the back of the instruction sheet). Even though a Scout may have completed some of the requirements on this trail, they must visit each station on this trail in order to complete the five mile hike. To complete the orienteering part of First Class requirement #2 they need to at least go from Station 4 to the blue moose.

**Starting point:** Start at the shelter on the road to the barn. The shelter is to the south of the bridge over Butte Creek.

The activities that take place at each station are listed on the Scout's Butte Creek Trail to First Class Instruction Sheet. Please note some requirements need three people, so the minimum group size is three people (depending on the requirements the Scout plans to complete).

**What Scouts Need To Bring:** What each Scout will need to bring depends on the requirements they need to complete. At a minimum they need their Boy Scout Handbook, a compass and a Butte Creek Trail to First Class instruction sheet. They may also need rope for demonstrating how to tie knots, supplies to whip and fuse the ends of a rope, paper and pen for recording distances on the orienteering course, and first aid supplies for demonstrating first aid. Scouts should read their instruction sheet and plan what they will do before they start.

**Orienteering Course Notes:** **First Class Requirement #2:** There is a place for Scouts to measure their stride at Station 5.

**Where to start each leg:** Part of the orienteering course takes the Scout to each of the shelters on the activity field. It is best to measure the bearing standing at the center post of each shelter, facing the direction you wish to go. Standing at other posts can result in slight differences in the compass heading.

Instead of giving a bearing and distance, this course gives a bearing and the Scouts then must measure and record the distance on a sheet of paper. The distances we measured are:

Station 5 to station 6: 540 feet  
Station 6 to station 7: 310 feet  
Station 7 to station 8: 280 feet  
Station 8 to station 9: 455 feet  
Station 9 to station 10: 275 feet  
Station 10 to station 11: 310 feet

From station 11 the orienteering course follows a road to leave the activity field. It goes up the road past the town and past the camp maintenance shop. Go up a steep hill and look for a picture of a blue moose on the left side of the road.

Your feedback on this Trail to First Class and on the distances your Scouts measured would be appreciated. (Send it to [steve@mtainfo.com](mailto:steve@mtainfo.com))

We hope you enjoy the Butte Creek Trail to First Class and find it useful for helping Scouts to advance to First Class.