



In accepting the Scout Oath, the Scout pledges to help other people at all times. Sometimes all that is required to do that is an observant eye to spot a person who could use some assistance, and the willingness to give it.

But sometimes, especially when a person is ill or injured, it takes skill and knowledge, too. That's why Boy Scouts have been learning first aid since the earliest days of the Scouting movement.

That's also why this program feature is so important. It will give the Scout the know-how that could be vital in an emergency, and it will also give him the confidence that comes from knowing that he is prepared for trouble.

Troop meeting activities should focus on first aid skills. Younger Scouts will work on first aid requirements for Tenderfoot through First Class. Experienced Scouts will concentrate on the more advanced skills required for the First Aid and Emergency Preparedness merit badges.

The big event will be disaster day. Patrols will face some realistic emergency situations requiring first aid skill, decision-making, and teamwork. The disaster day might be the highlight activity of a weekend campout, or it might be a public display of first aid in a local park or shopping center.

SCOUTING OUTCOMES

This month's patrol and troop activities should give your Scouts:

- An understanding that the pledge "to help other people at all times" requires skill as well as goodwill toward others.
- A good grasp of the fundamentals of first aid for life-threatening injuries and for many other less serious injuries.
- Confidence that they will be able to act rationally in an emergency.

ADVANCEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

By the end of the month, all Scouts should have met the majority of their basic first aid requirements through First

Class. Depending on whether the disaster day is part of campout activities, they may also complete all or part of the following rank requirements:

Tenderfoot

- Outdoor—Cooking, camping, hiking
- Citizenship—Flag ceremonies, Good Turn, first aid
- Patrol/troop participation—Patrol identification
- Personal development—Scout Oath and Law

Second Class

- Outdoor—Cooking, camping, hiking
- Citizenship—Flag ceremonies, Good Turn, first aid
- Patrol/troop participation—Leadership
- Personal development—Scout Oath and Law
- Physical fitness—Drug awareness

First Class

- Outdoor—Cooking, camping, nature, hiking
- Citizenship—Flag ceremonies, Good Turn, first aid
- Patrol/troop participation—Leadership
- Personal development—Scout Oath and Law

Merit Badges. Older Scouts can concentrate on the First Aid and Emergency Preparedness merit badges this month; they should be able to complete all but the last two requirements. Depending on activities during the disaster day, and whether it is a campout, they may also complete requirements in Cooking, Hiking, Camping, and Lifesaving.

PARENT PARTICIPATION

The patrol leaders' council may involve parents in the program feature this month by:

- Asking qualified parents to help with first aid instruction.
- Inviting parents to the disaster day event.
- Asking parents to provide transportation, if necessary, for disaster day.