

September 1, 2005

MEMORANDUM

To: Scout Executives

From: Terry Lawson, Director, Boy Scout Advancement

Subject: New First Class requirement

Beginning January 1, 2006, an additional requirement will be added to the requirements for First Class rank in Boy Scouting. Scouts beginning their First Class requirement work after this date must complete the new requirement. Scouts working on First Class requirements prior to this date will have until June 30, 2006 to complete First Class rank without completing the new requirement.

The new requirement tests the candidate's persuasive communications skills and can help make Scouting available to more boys. It reads as follows:

“Tell someone who is eligible to join Boy Scouts, or an inactive Boy Scout, about your troop’s activities. Invite him to a troop outing, activity, service project, or meeting. Tell him how to join, or encourage the inactive Boy Scout to become active.”

The Boy Scout Handbook and 2006 Requirements book will be updated with this new detail. Please share this information with all of your troop leaders and consider placing it on your council Web site and in your council newsletter.

All Scoutmasters were sent a DVD containing tools that young Scouts can use to assist them in completing this requirement, including a video that trains them how to speak to their friends about joining, and a video of Scout activity images they can share with someone interested in joining. Also, Scouts can find support for the completion of this requirement on the Boy Scout membership Web site, www.thescoutzone.org.

cc: Area Directors
Regional professional staff
Office of the Chief Scout Executive