

how does the program work?

LEARNING IN THE WOODLANDS TRAIL PROGRAM

The Woodlands Trail curriculum is a 2-year course of study for Trailmen (boys) in three age groups, called "Patrols."



Foxes
(Grades K-1)



Hawks
(Grades 2-3)



Mountain Lions
(Grades 4-5)

Within the age-and-grade Patrols, larger Troops may have several smaller patrols that are frequently named by the boys.

Meeting plans revolve around a set curriculum to engage and teach program participants using six Program Emphases:



where does my son start?

THE WOODLANDS TRAIL BRANCH PATCH (JOINING AWARD)

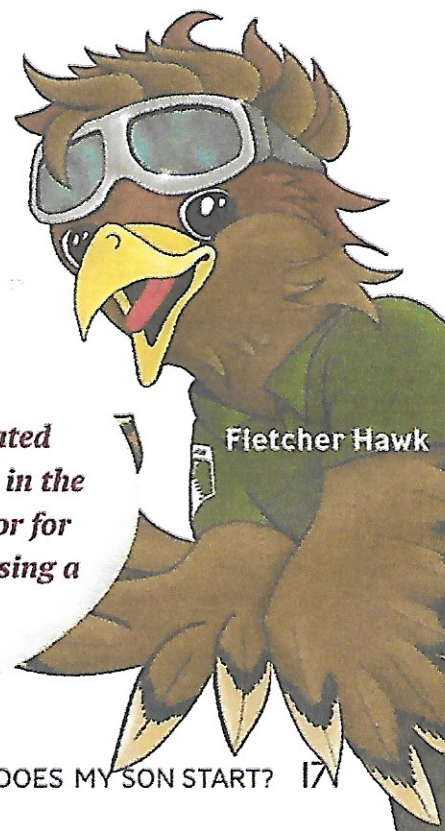
A boy begins on the Trail by completing a set of **Joining Award requirements**. On completion, he earns the Branch Patch of his particular age and grade level (Fox, Hawk, or Mountain Lion), which must be earned before other awards are presented.



Families are encouraged to immediately assist their Trailman in achieving this award by focusing on the following requirements, then allowing the Trailman to demonstrate to the assigned Troop Leader that he has mastered them. This is the beginning of a boy accepting and carrying out responsibility in Trail Life USA, a process that will be repeated over-and-over as he progresses and the responsibilities increase in the challenge they provide.

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*Parents, as your Trailman
completes his joining requirements,
you can track his progress where indicated
in this section, use the charts for his level in the
Advancement Section beginning on 102 or for
visual tracking at home, consider purchasing a
Woodlands Trailmap
for his level.*





Memorize the Trailman Oath.

The Trailman Oath is recited at the beginning of each meeting and at most gatherings. It is the shared commitment to traditional biblical values that binds all Trailmen.

*On my honor, I will do my best
To serve God and my country;
To respect authority;
To be a good steward of creation;
And to treat others as I want to be treated.*

Parents might want to review with their son the meaning behind the Trailman Oath. This will increase the impact of his commitment to live the Trail Life.

- ▶ **Oath** – An oath is a way of telling everyone how you want to live and what you are going to do.
- ▶ **“On my honor ...”** – On my honor means that you really mean what you are about to say and that you promise to do it.
- ▶ **“... I will do my best ...”** – When you do your best, it means that you will try as hard as you can until you can’t try anymore.
- ▶ **“... to serve God ...”** – Serving God means that you obey what God tells you to do. The Bible is where we find what God wants us to do and not to do.
- ▶ **“... and (to serve) my country; ...”** – Serving your country means that you obey the laws (rules) like the speed limits and stop signs. It also means that you help others in your community.
- ▶ **“... to respect authority; ...”** – Respecting authority means that you listen, obey, and are kind to the people that are in charge, like parents, teachers, policemen, leaders, etc.
- ▶ **“... to be a good steward of creation; ...”** – Being a good

steward of creation means that you will take care of the world that God made for you like it is a treasure. You do this by not littering, always trying to make things better, and using the things that God gives you wisely (not wasting anything).

- **“... and to treat others as I want to be treated.”** – This means that you should think about how you want other people to talk to you and act towards you. Then you should talk to other people the same way and act the same way toward them.

REQUIREMENT 1 COMPLETED (initial here):

Boy _____ Parent/Guardian _____ Troop Leader _____

2 Learn the Trailman Sign and when to use it.



The Trailman sign is made with the right hand held open, palm forward, raising your right arm with your elbow at a right angle.

The sign is used during reciting of the Trailman Oath and is also used by Troop leaders as a signal to be silent.

If you see a Troop leader with his sign up standing quietly you should imitate him and see how fast the room goes silent!

REQUIREMENT 2 COMPLETED (initial here):

Boy _____ Parent/Guardian _____ Troop Leader _____

3 Learn the Trailman Salute and when to use it.



The Trailman Salute is made by raising your right hand. The tip of your fingers should almost touch your right temple or eyebrow. If you wear glasses, the tip of your fingers should almost touch the frames of your glasses. If you are wearing a uniform hat, the tip of your fingers should touch the brim.

A proper, crisp salute reflects well on your Patrol and Troop. A sloppy salute does not properly honor the great traditions and hard work that went before. Practice bringing your hand up in one, smart motion and holding the salute until you are asked to drop it, then bring your hand directly down to its natural position at your side.

The Trailman Salute is used by Trailmen in uniform (defined by your Troop leaders) when:

- They recite the Pledge of Allegiance
- The flag passes in a parade or ceremony
- You are in a parade and pass the flag
- The flag is raised or lowered on a flagpole
- The national anthem is played or sung
- The flag is retired at flag retirement ceremonies

REQUIREMENT 3 COMPLETED *(initial here):*

Boy _____ Parent/Guardian _____ Troop Leader _____

4 Learn the Trailman Handshake.



The Trailman Handshake is a forearm to forearm or wrist to wrist handshake.

This handshake was chosen because it is a strong way to assist another person in need.

REQUIREMENT 4 COMPLETED (initial here):

Boy _____ Parent/Guardian _____ Troop Leader _____

5 Memorize the Pledge of Allegiance. (Fox recite only)

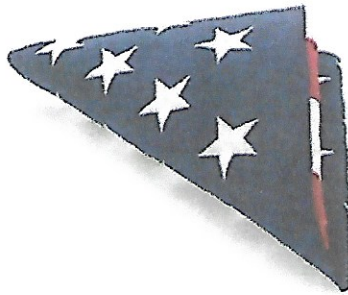
*I pledge allegiance to the flag
of the United States of America,
and to the republic for which it stands,
one nation under God, indivisible,
with liberty and justice for all.*

REQUIREMENT 5 COMPLETED (initial here):

Boy _____ Parent/Guardian _____ Troop Leader _____

Turn the page for one more requirement if your son is joining as a Mountain Lion.

- 6** Understand how to properly fold the American flag (Mountain Lions only). *Your Troop Leaders can assist in teaching this.*



REQUIREMENT 6 COMPLETED *(initial here):*

Boy _____ Parent/Guardian _____ Troop Leader _____



joining requirements

DATE

TRAIL GUIDE
INITIALS

I memorized the Oath

COMPLETED

☐

I learned the Sign

COMPLETED

☐

I learned the Salute

COMPLETED

☐

I learned the Handshake

COMPLETED

☐

I can recite the Pledge

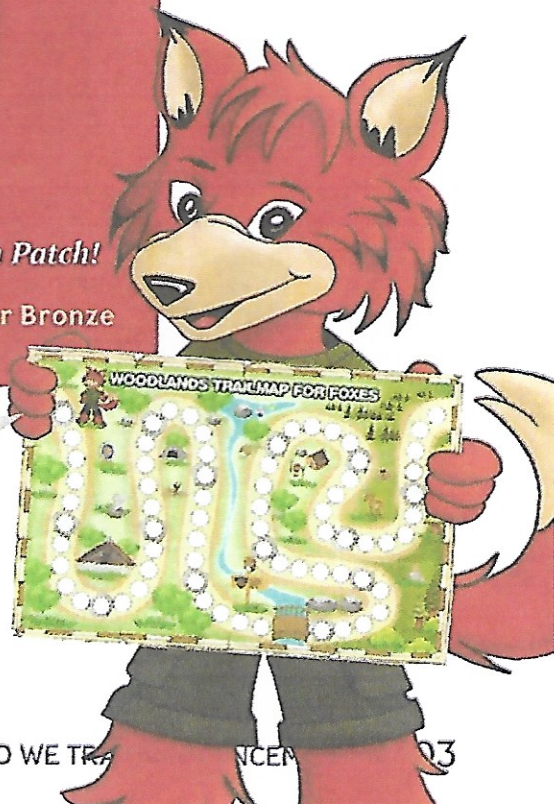
COMPLETED

☐

You've earned your Fox Branch Patch!

Turn the page to start tracking your Bronze Branches for your Branch Patch!

Parents: Find the Woodlands Trailmap wall poster in our online store for your son to celebrate his achievements at home!





joining requirements

DATE

TRAIL GUIDE
INITIALS

I memorized the Oath

COMPLETED

☐

I learned the Sign

COMPLETED

☐

I learned the Salute

COMPLETED

☐

I learned the Handshake

COMPLETED

☐

I memorized the Pledge

COMPLETED

☐

You've earned your Hawk Branch Patch!

Turn the page to start tracking your
Silver Branches for your Branch Patch!

**Parents: Find the Woodlands
Trailmap wall poster in our online
store for your son to celebrate his
achievements at home!**



HOW DO WE TRACK ADVANCEMENTS?



joining requirements

DATE

TRAIL GUIDE
INITIALS

I memorized the Oath

COMPLETED

☐

I learned the Sign

COMPLETED

☐

I learned the Salute

COMPLETED

☐

I learned the Handshake

COMPLETED

☐

I memorized the Pledge

COMPLETED

☐

I properly folded the
American Flag

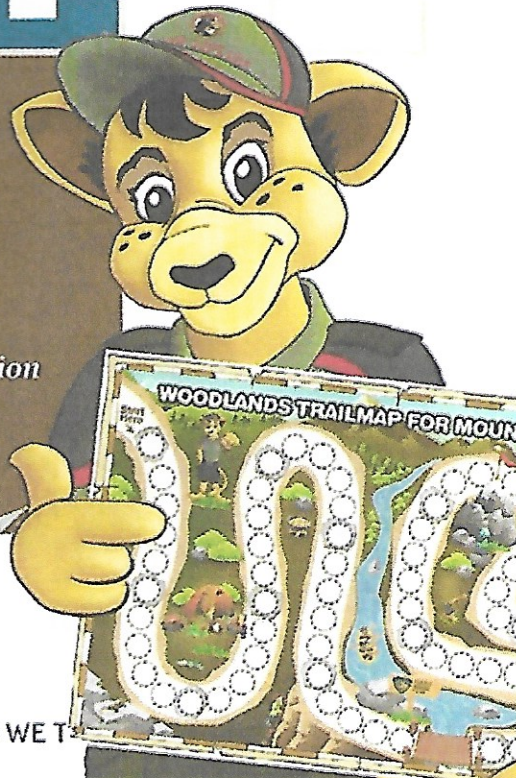
COMPLETED

☐

*You've earned your Mountain Lion
Branch Patch!*

Turn the page to start tracking your
Gold Branches for your Branch Patch!

Parents:
Find the Woodlands
Trailmap wall poster in our
online store.

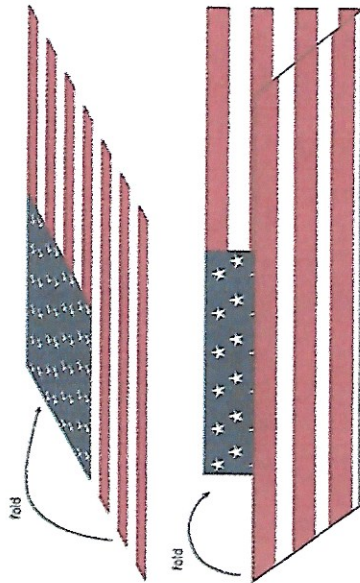


HOW DO WE T

FLAG FOLDING

The traditional method of folding the flag is as follows:

Step A



Straighten out the flag to full length and fold lengthwise once.

Step B



Fold it lengthwise a second time to meet the open edge, making sure that the union of stars on the blue field remains outward in full view. (A large flag may have to be folded lengthwise a third time.)

Step C



A triangular fold is then started by bringing the striped corner of the folded edge to the open edge.

Step D

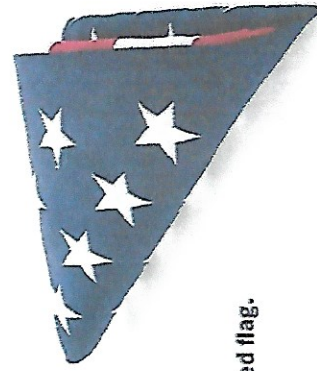


The outer point is then turned inward, parallel with the open edge, to form a second triangle.

Step E



The diagonal or triangular folding is continued toward the blue union until the end is reached, with only the blue showing and the form being that of a cocked (three-corner) hat.



A properly folded flag.