

## DAN BEARD (First Year Camper Program)

This program is for Scouts who have not earned the First Class rank, and for those who have little camping experience. The staff recommends it for all first-time campers. Even though some Scouts have been in the unit for three or four months they probably don't have the maturity level necessary to function in merit badge classes, and so are best suited here. "Older" new Scouts, say 13 and older, would be better served in the regular merit badge program, as they might feel out of place with the younger Scouts.

This program is named for Daniel Carter Beard, the first National Scout Commissioner; he helped in the design of the first Boy Scout uniform, and introduced the elements of the First Class Scout badge. The Dan Beard program at Camp Buck Toms gives your new Scouts a taste of the entire summer program.

The Dan Beard participants should wear substantial footwear (no open toes) and carry a water bottle, which they should fill up in their campsite morning and noon. They will work in patrols, led by a Staff patrol counselor. They will name their patrols and design their patrol flags. Together, they will visit and work in almost every area of camp and participate in those programs, including the following:

- Shoot .22 rifles and bow and arrow in the Shooting Sports area.

- Improve swimming skills at the waterfront, and work on requirements for Swimming Merit Badge.

- Learn knife and ax safety.

- See the animals and displays at the Nature Lodge.

- Have opportunity to rappel from the Jeep McCurry tower

Most importantly, **Dan Beard Scouts will complete many of the requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class Scout ranks** (See REQUIREMENTS CHECKLIST on the next page).

Dan Beard Scouts are busy from morning to evening. They will go home with tangible evidence of their hard work, in the form of the Totin' Chip and Firem'n Chit cards and requirements checked off on ranks and Swimming Merit Badge. Additionally, Scouts who meet

certain requirements will receive a special Dan Beard patch, which may be worn as a "temporary patch" on their uniform. The requirements for the Dan Beard patch are:

- Complete 90 percent or more of the first three rank requirements offered.

- Miss only two (2) of the class periods.

- Demonstrate Scout Spirit and adherence to the Scout Oath and Promise.

The Dan Beard staff will approve the awarding of this special patch. It goes only to the deserving.