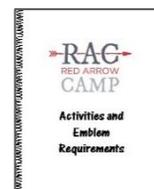


RAC EMBLEMS EXPLAINED

One of the key components of Red Arrow's experience for boys is Camp's emblem system. The emblems represent a boy's achievement in a particular area and are displayed on his RAC scarf which is placed on his bunk during the summer.



Criteria: In each activity offered at Camp there are written requirements, typically beginner, and intermediate and advanced, identifying what a boy needs to know and demonstrate in order to earn a particular emblem. These activity requirements are all assembled in booklet form and a copy is in each cabin. In addition, a copy of activities' requirements is posted or made available where the classes are held on Camp.



Assessment: Counselors assess a boy's skill & knowledge level at the beginning of the summer and in order to earn an emblem a camper must progress to a higher level. The rigor of requirements does vary. Some entail primarily cooperative and engaged participation while others require extensive knowledge & skill progress necessitating study and practice. Failure to meet certain standards the first time is often part of the journey to earning an emblem and boys learn to continue their effort until they succeed. It's not unusual for a camper to work toward earning an emblem for an entire summer. When a camper is awarded an emblem on Sunday night he experiences a genuine sense of accomplishment and pride and the lesson of that experience serves him well as he matures.



Non-Activity Emblems: In addition to activity emblems there are three other emblems that are even more central to Red Arrow's mission of nurturing great boys. The standards required for these three emblems have traditionally been explained to campers and revisited every Sunday evening and is a reoccurring topic that campers have with their counselors. The three are Inspection, Best Tripper and Sunshine.



INSPECTION: The cabin is the camper's home for the summer and as such campers are responsible for their personal space and how the entire cabin looks. We call this Inspection. Inspection is an expectation at Camp that is often challenging for younger boys or boys new to Red Arrow. It is awarded by a boy's cabin counselors.

To earn it a boy must, in an age appropriate manner, demonstrate that he is responsible in keeping his possessions in a neat & orderly fashion while respecting the gear of his cabin mates, making his bed, & picking up after himself. In addition, a boy must be a positive and contributing member of the cabin team during cabin clean up each morning and continuing efforts during the day. By participating in this way campers learn to take pride in themselves and the efforts of the cabin team. It is common for a camper to improve during the summer & ultimately demonstrate these attributes for an entire week the latter part of the summer and earn his Inspection emblem.

BEST TRIPPER: Another coveted emblem is Best Tripper. Every camper has two opportunities to earn this award on the two trips each cabin takes during the summer. One of the values of wilderness experiences is that it can take a person “out of their comfort zone” and so the experience often results in a more confident and gritty boy.



The decision of whether a boy earns this award is made by his cabin counselors. Boys are taught camping and tripping skills on every trip and evaluated once again in an age appropriate manner. To earn Best Tripper a boy must keep his own gear dry & in order. In addition, he must contribute to the many tasks associated with a camping experience such as firewood gathering, putting up & taking down tents and participating in meal preparation. More importantly a camper needs to embrace and enjoy the challenges often encountered in an outdoor experience and display an appreciation for our magnificent natural world. When former campers return to Red Arrow and reunite with their cabin mates, recalling their shared times on trips is always a cherished memory of their time together.

SUNSHINE: The third, Sunshine, is THE HIGHEST award earned by a boy at Red Arrow. The traditional definition of a Sunshine camper is a “boy abreast of himself” or put simply a boy being the best he can be.



This emblem is awarded by the entire staff at Camp. To be eligible a camper must have already earned his Inspection emblem. Boys are nominated by their cabin counselors and when staff considers a boy for Sunshine he is compared to no one but himself. When a boy is considered for Sunshine staff considers whether a boy, within his own personality, consistently puts forth his best effort even if from time to time he fails. A Sunshine boy is a positive influence in the cabin and all-around Camp. Once again, within his own personality, a Sunshine boy is friendly, kind, empathetic and encouraging to his fellow campers. Further he is respectful of everyone he relates with and displays an appreciation for his experience at Red Arrow. Sunshine campers have fun and truly have “the best summer of their life”.

It must be noted that each summer there are boys who don’t earn any of the three aforementioned emblems. However, that does not mean that they haven’t benefited from working toward achieving them and seen examples of boys who have done so. It’s a process, one that happens both at home and at Red Arrow. Parents see it as they teach their children the values and expectations of their family and they recognize that every child travels that process in his or her own way.

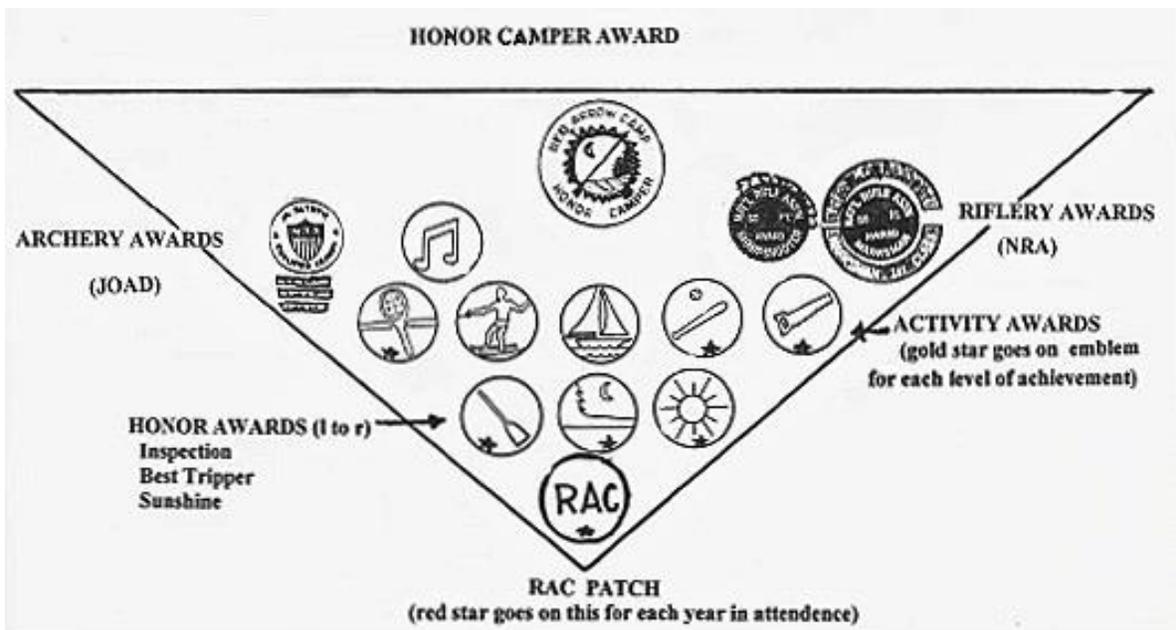


HONOR CAMPER: There is one other emblem awarded at Red Arrow and that is Honor Camper. The Honor Camper emblem is unique in that to be considered a boy must have earned all three of the non-activity emblems (Inspection, Best Tripper, and Sunshine.) A boy who is an Honor Camper will have exhibited a high level of consistency in attitude, effort, and character in all three of these areas. The entire staff then considers if eligible campers have also displayed positive leadership qualities during the summer. If so, those boys are recognized in a brief ceremony the last morning of Camp.

It is important to note that the Honor Camper award is not the standard by which a successful summer is measured. The Honor Camper criteria is very challenging and requires a high level of maturity, resilience, positivity, empathy and selflessness. While you could hope to see emblems for Inspection, Best Tripper and Sunshine, the truth is that as you gauge the success of the summer, the first criteria is a happy camper who returns home with obvious signs of personal growth. If so he has done well and its been a good summer.

Emblem Placement

- The scarf is folded in a triangle to be displayed on the camper's bed each day
- The first time a camper earns an award in any given area he earns an emblem.
- All subsequent awards in that area are stars to be placed around the emblem
- In addition, Archery and Rifle have separate achievement emblems from the NRA and JOAD
- Yellow stars for activities
- Blue Stars for special achievement in an activity
- Red Stars for each year returning as a camper to be placed around the RAC emblem
- **The RAC emblem** goes at the point of the scarf
- Above it in a row are 3 places for **Inspection, Best Tripper** and **Sunshine**
- All other emblems are placed wherever they seem to fit best.



- ★ A boy receives a Red Star for each year in attendance, to be placed around his RAC emblem
- ★ Yellow stars are earned for higher levels of achievement in an activity, or for repeats of earning an Honor Award such as Inspection, Best Tripper or Sunshine
- ★ Blue stars are awarded for special achievement in an activity such as the Island Swim (to be sewn on the Swim Emblem) or Soccer Goalie