



**Camp Cornhusker**  
**Mountain Man Program Guide**  
**2020**



The settling of the Western Frontier began with the Lewis and Clark Expedition in 1804. After that expedition the “Western Expansion” was greatly enhanced by the experiences and knowledge gained by the “Mountaineers” as they called themselves. Today we know them as Mountain Men, both men and women. The Trappers’ life on the frontier was one of skill and toughness. Not only was he a trapper and woodsman they were also traders, blacksmiths, cowboys, horse wranglers, teamsters, doctors, gunsmiths, tailors, explorers, packers and guides. One railroad executive commented that the western expansion would have lasted well into the Twentieth Century without the help of these experienced guides. Many of those guides had previously been Mountain Men.

A Mountain Man had to be constantly alert for signs of danger and ready for immediate action. Long periods of time often passed without seeing another person, it was necessary that they were self-sufficient, able to live from what nature provided. They had to possess that spirit of adventure that makes a person wonder just what is up the river and over the mountain, then go and find out, regardless of time or danger.

In today’s society a great deal of this spirit has been lost. The lifestyle for much of our populace today has changed to dependence upon others in our society being guided by the law to assist them through life. We are trying to preserve the spirit of the original Mountain Men and bring back some of what has been lost. We want individuals who are willing, at least for a short time, to step back in time and live life how it was meant to be; as free individuals, and true citizens of the wilderness.



## Mountain Man at Camp Cornhusker

Camp Cornhusker has a wonderful camp loyalty, youth and adult, growth retention program called "Mountain Man". We hope to accomplish two things. First, to create a true sense of loyalty to Camp Cornhusker and the high ideals of Scouting, outdoor program and heritage for which it has stood since the camps creation in 1956. Second, to prepare scouts to become men and women of vision and dedication who will continue the work of those who first took up Scouting's mantle and formed the Cornhusker Council, its camps and properties.

The GEE-GAW is the recognition part of the Mountain Man Program and designates the achievements of both Scouts and Leaders at camp. Each first-year camper, youth and adult, will receive a blank hide GEE-GAW at Rendezvous on Wednesday night. The GEE-GAW is worn around the neck and is appropriate for wear with either the Field (Class A) or activity (Class B) Uniform. Throughout the week, campers can earn different beads for different activities on camp (i.e. attending chapel).

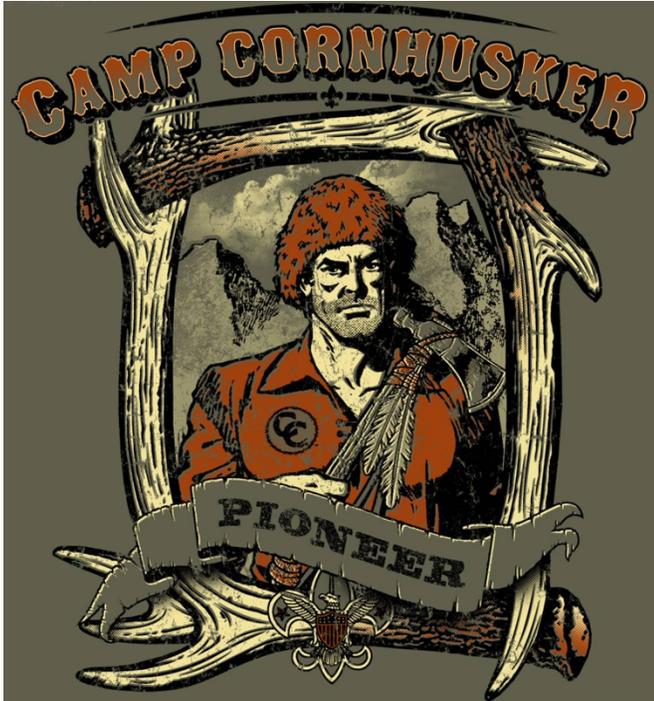
Year at Camp	Mountain Man Rank	GEE-GAW Recognition
Year 1	Pioneer	Blank Hide GEE-GAW
Year 2	Explorer	Mountain Stamp on GEE-GAW
Year 3	Frontiersman	Crossed Rifles Stamp on GEE-GAW
Year 4	Voyager	Special Black Wooden Bead
Year 5	Mountain Man	Special Silver Metal Beed
Year 6 & Up	Council of Wisdom	Special Glass Bead



## Recognition Levels of the Mountain Man Program

\*Level depends on the number of years you have attended Camp Cornhusker since the relaunch of our program in 2012. Level 3-6 you will need to partake in our Frontier Experience to advance.

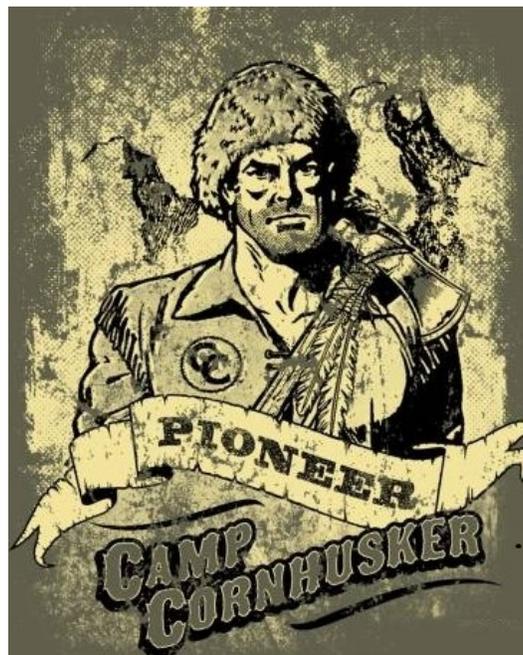
### **Level One: Pioneer**



Every first-year camper, youth and adult, that attends Camp Cornhusker will be awarded a blank hide GEE-GAW. This will be awarded Wednesday during the Rendezvous Ceremonies. The GEE-GAW will be affixed with a pair of pony beads which denotes the year of attendance. First year campers will be granted the title of "Pioneer" and will be able to write their name in the Big Book of Names at the Rendezvous. Pioneers will have the ability to learn more about Camp Cornhusker through activities throughout the week. During the week, Pioneers will go on a five-mile hike exposing them to different areas of camp while learning the history of our beloved camp and

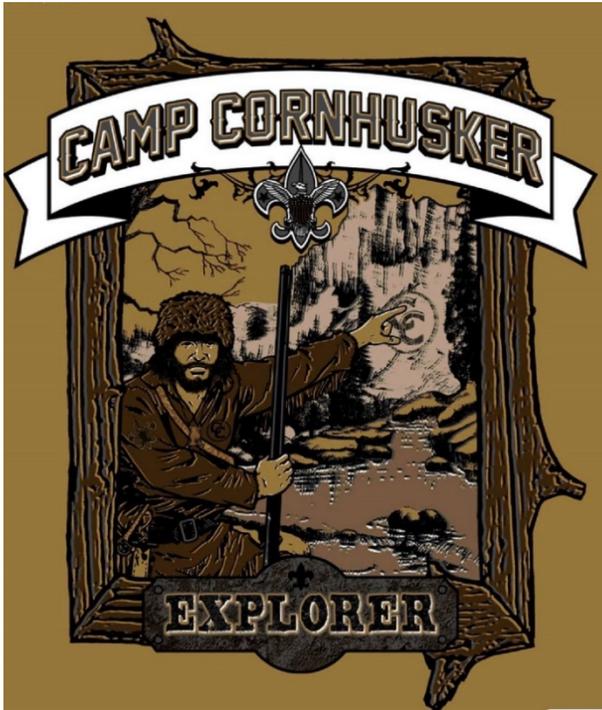
traditions. The five-mile hike covers the requirement for Trail to First Class (TTFC) Scouts.

Pioneers will also be shown parts of the Mountain Man experience, laying the foundation for their third year at Cornhusker.



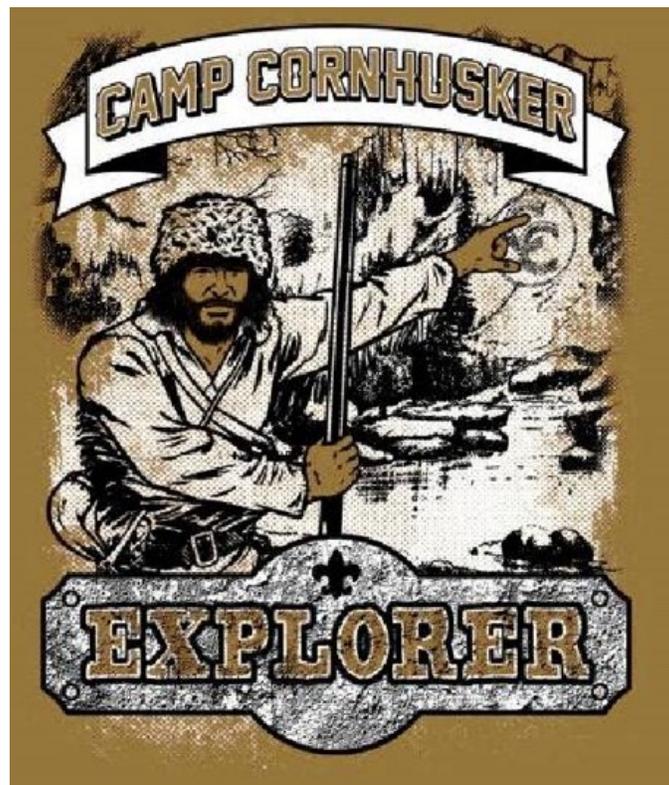
## Recognition Levels of the Mountain Man Program

### Level Two: Explorer



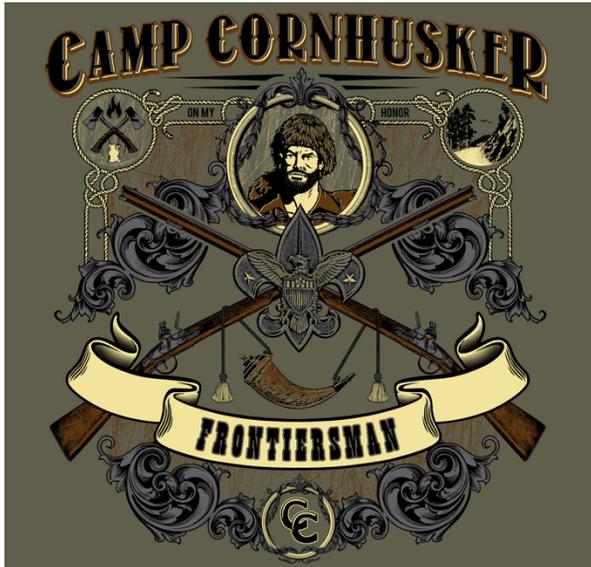
Scouts and Leaders who return to Camp Cornhusker for a second year receive the title of “Explorer”. These individuals should bring their GEE-GAW back to camp with them each year as different things will be denoting that year. Explorers will have their GEE-GAW stamped with the Mountain Range denoting their continued adventure and camp loyalty as well as receiving the colored pony beads designated for the year of attendance. During the week, Explorers will participate in a scavenger hunt looking for clues detailing the rich history of the traditions of Camp Cornhusker. Those who continue their adventure will be exposed to new parts of the Mountain Man experience. Explorer is the final step before scouts

and leaders can participate in “Trial of the Frontiersman” in their third year.



# Recognition Levels of the Mountain Man Program

## Level Three: Frontiersman



Upon deciding to return to Camp Cornhusker for a third year, participants are to receive the colored pony beads for that year for their GEE-GAW but will need to make a decision to enroll in the Trial of the Frontiersman (via the Merit Badge and Activity registration system) in order to receive the stamp of the Crossed Rifles and the Title of "Frontiersman". These individuals, both youth and adult, will be made a special part of the Rendezvous Ceremonies on Wednesday and it is at this time that they will be given a Mountain Man Alias to be registered in the

"Rendezvous Log", as having returned safe to another year's rendezvous.

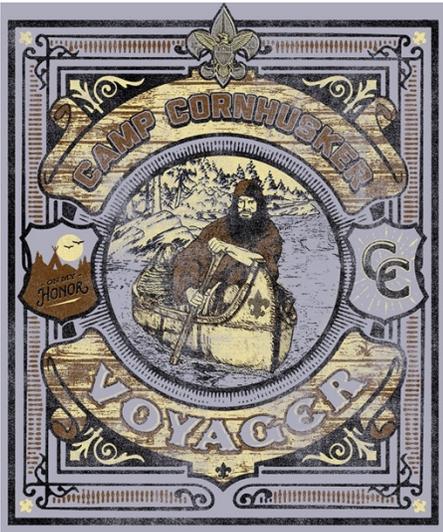
The "Trial of the Frontiersman" is the first of three levels of ascension in the Mountain Man Program that will require individuals to be a part of an outpost experience that will teach them many of the Primitive bush craft skills as well as earning the Indian Lore merit badge. (Native American culture and life skills were a vital part of the Mountain Man's adaptation to the rugged wild environment and survival.) This experience promises to provide an excellent historical primitive camping experience, bolster a greater sense of self-reliance and personal discovery while teaching the value of teamwork and harmonious living with the natural world. Individuals who participate in this Trial of the Frontiersman will have the opportunity in subsequent years to continue this journey through the Voyager Outpost and the Mountain Man Experience. (More information on subsequent pages).



\*Note: In order to continue one's ascension, the individual must register and participate in the "Trail to Frontiersman" on their camp registration. One cannot move forward in the ascension without this experience.

# Recognition Levels of the Mountain Man Program

## Level Four: Voyager



The Voyager Experience is for fourth year returning campers. This level awards a “black wooden bead” having earned their Mountain Man Alias as a part of the “Trial of the Frontiersman” the previous year, participants in the Voyager Experience will enter into a contract of service as “Engages” and will earn their rite of passage in a waterfront themed adventure over the first three days at camp. Much like the “Frontiersman” they will be honored as they return to their troops at Rendezvous on Wednesday Evening.

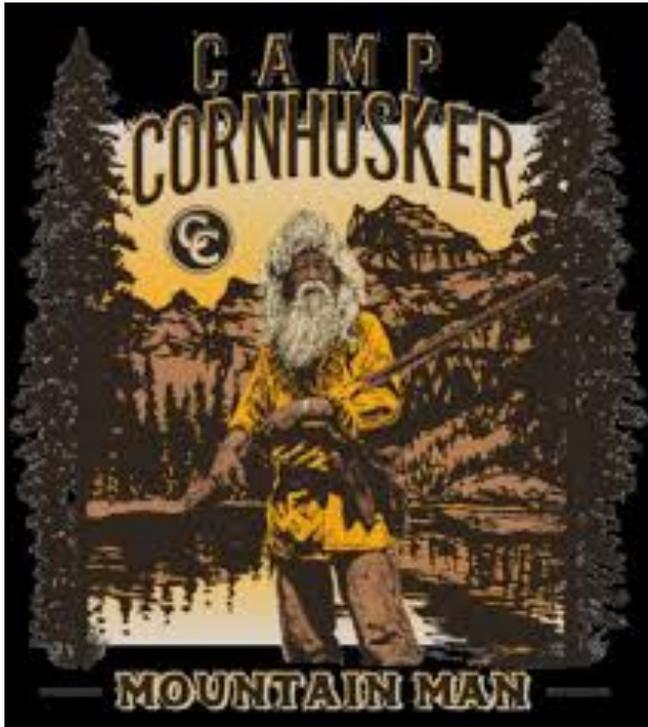
While participating in the Voyager Program, the “Engages” will perform a substantial Camp Service Project, if at all possible, benefitting the Mountain Man Program. They will spend time on the Waterfront assisting with the Boating program and will go on one or more off-site canoe and or kayak trips, if personnel allows. They will learn to finger weave the Ascension Sash and this will be a take-away item that may be worn as part of the Mountain Man regalia; an additional outward sign showing that they have made the Ascension to the Voyager Level.

\*Note: In order to continue one’s ascension, the individual must register and participate in the “Voyager Experience” on their camp registration. One cannot move forward in the ascension without this experience.



# Recognition Levels of the Mountain Man Program

## Level Five: Mountain Man



Scouts and Leaders who have completed the “Trial of the Frontiersman” and the “Voyager Experience” and who are at a minimum of five years of attending Camp Cornhusker, are eligible to sign up for the Mountain Man Ascension (via the Merit Badge registration system). These individuals will be awaiting the Frontiersman and Voyagers and will have a separate ceremony prior to the beginning of the Woodman’s Games at the Wednesday night Rendezvous. They will receive the silver ornate beads that indicate they are now fully vested Mountain Men. They will become instrumental in the planning and running of Rendezvous and the mentoring and delivery of the

previous program levels of ascension.

\*Note: In order to continue one’s ascension, the individual must register and participate in the “Mountain Man Experience” on their camp registration. One cannot move forward in the ascension without this experience.



# Recognition Levels of the Mountain Man Program

## Level Six: Council of Wisdom

Scouts and Leaders who have completed all previous levels and hold the title of “Mountain Man” will be inducted into the Council of Wisdom. Members of the Council of Wisdom are critical in the upkeep of the Mountain Man Program. They serve as mentors and continue to provide service to not only the Mountain Man Program but to Camp Cornhusker, as well. Council of Wisdom members will receive a large clear bead to affix upon their GEE-GAW.

## Adult Participants

Adults who wish to participate in this program are welcome. Adult participants will go through this program as well as by accepting the responsibility to provide Adult Leadership for a portion of the outpost program, as they are able, and will be offered the opportunity to enroll in the Adult Camp Cornhusker Alumni and Benevolent Society “**The Long Tooth Circle**”\*.

\*Note: Any Adult Leader can be a part of the Camp Cornhusker “Long Tooth Circle” Alumni Association and they do not have to go through the Mountain Man Program to do so. The individual must simply pay the yearly fee.



# THE LONG TOOTH CIRCLE (LTC)

## *A Council Alumni Association of the Cornhusker Council*

The Long Tooth Circle is an Alumni Association organization of adult Scouters formed to perpetuate and support Camp Cornhusker

**GOAL**-To establish an organized group of Scouters who will commit to support Camp Cornhusker with volunteer labor and donations so that Camp Cornhusker can be sustained for future generations.

**MISSION** -Maintain Camp Cornhusker's unique reputation with the manpower and funds needed for the continuation of an excellent camping experience through innovative programs that challenge both younger and older Scouts.



### **OBJECTIVES**

1. To establish a structure, based on the Camp's Mountain Man Program that will appeal to Scouters and be an encouragement for them to join the Circle.
2. Use the LTC to encourage participation as Camp Staff and in other Council related groups i.e. Order of the Arrow, Wood Badge. High Adventure Bases, National Camping School, Jamborees, Alumni Associations, Philmont Training Center, etc.
3. Use the LTC to raise funds and labor to sustain the camp and support new programs. The LTC will not be in competition with already established Council fund raising programs since it is focused solely on the maintenance and perpetuation of Camp Cornhusker.
4. Use the LTC to advise, plan and institute innovative camp programs while supporting on-going camp operations. It is hoped members of the LTC would be also become members of the Council's Outdoor Program and Camping Committee.

**CONCEPTS-** The LTC will be a logical extension of the already established Mountain Man Program (MMP). However, this is not a requirement for membership. All titles/names earned in the MMP will be retained. A beaver tooth will be added to the Camp GEE GAW already in use to signify membership in the Circle. In keeping with the Mountain Man theme of Camp Cornhusker adults are allowed to wear appropriate regalia of the Mountain Man era at Wednesday's Rendezvous and to the LTC meeting afterwards if they wish. All organizations of the Council are taken into account and participation/membership is included for advancement in the LTC. Therefore, the LTC will not be in competition with any existing program but complement them all. The LTC exists solely to perpetuate Camp Cornhusker.

**Meetings**—The LTC Camp Meeting will take place Wednesday night at camp after Rendezvous. Only the members of the LTC will gather and go through the ceremony, which stresses the ideals of Scouting. Helpful suggestions will be aired concerning camp operations for that week and taken into consideration by the Camp Staff. Advancement may be awarded at this time and new members admitted. A business meeting will take place in the fall after camp. At the Fall Business Meeting LTC members will gather to go over the camp program for the coming year prior to the next year's Camp Guide being published. New LTC officers elected. Fall meeting is open to all interested Scouters.

**Fees**—\$30 in your first year and \$25.00/year thereafter. All income generated by these fees will be used for the improvement and needed items for Camp Cornhusker.

**Join at :**

<https://www.cornhuskercouncil.org/support-scouting/long-tooth-circle/join.html>

**More Information Here:**

<https://www.cornhuskercouncil.org/support-scouting/long-tooth-circle/overview.html>



## Rendezvous at Camp Cornhusker

Rendezvous is held every Wednesday night at 7:30PM. Scouts and Leaders will meet at the Rendezvous sign in the Indian campsites. A guide will lead everyone into the area for the Mountain Man Ceremony and begin the Woodman's Games. New Scouts and Leaders will receive their GEE-GAWs, while returning Leaders and Scouts will receive their year beads.

### Woodman's Games

The Woodman's Games are a Camp Cornhusker tradition! After the cannoneer opens the games, each unit will assemble a team to participate.

The games include:

- Tomahawk Throwing
- Knot Tying
- Building Fires
- Pan Toss
- Pioneering Activity

Each game will be based on points and the troop with the highest point total at the sounding of the closing canon wins. An award for the winning Troop will be given out at Friday Night's Closing campfire.

### Trading

One of the many highlights of Rendezvous is trading. Scouts and Leaders may bring patches, playing cards, toys, and other unique items to be traded. The Scouts and Leaders have a blast as they share common interests and can connect with one another even if they have never met before!

The only stipulation is **NO TRADING OF KNIVES, FOOD, OR MONEY!**



### Trading Post

The Trading Post will setup shop at Rendezvous and will have a variety of items for sale. They will be able to stamp your GEE-GAWs and extra beads for those who are missing any.

## Helpful Information

**Please remember the following when signing up Scouts and Leaders for the “Trial of the Frontiersman”, “Voyager Experience” or “Mountain Man Experience”**

- Scouts going through the “Trial of the Frontiersman”, “Voyager Experience”, or “Mountain Man Experience” can register for Merit Badge classes in 2nd, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> period but will not be able to attend first period Merit Badge Program. First period is excluded due to the nature of their camp duties (breakfast preparation and clean up) and the distant location of the outpost camps.
- Scouts going through the “Trial of the Frontiersman”, “Voyager Experience”, or “Mountain Man Experience” can continue to advance through program opportunities like Project C.O.P. E. and Cornhusker Sharpshooters. (We want to make sure that this important aspect is not denied them). This includes 1<sup>st</sup> period only Merit Badges or for example Environmental Science.
- We will work with the Area Directors and Scouts to ensure missing time is made up. Please do not let the fear of missing Merit Badge or other Activity time deter your Scouts or Leaders from signing up for the “Mountain Man” ascension programs.
- Scouts and Leaders will not rejoin their troop in the evenings in the campsite until after Rendezvous on Wednesday night.
- There will be several physical take home items thus there is an activity fee associated. \$25.00 (Indian Lore MB and other supplemental take home projects.)
- Scouts and Leaders setup camp with their troop and bring their pack with them to the Opening Campfire and will leave for the Frontier after the close of Opening Campfire.
- They cook their own meals (Breakfast and evening meal patrol style) Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday at the Frontier. They will attend lunch time meals with the troop.

### Packing List for Frontiersman, Voyagers, and Mountain Men

- Separate pack that holds clothing and personal kit for 3 nights
- Sleeping Bag
- Ground cloth
- Canteen/water bottle
- Box of matches
- Rain Gear
- Personal Mess Kit (including utensils for eating)
- Roll of toilet paper (in zip lock bag)
- Altoids tin or similar tin container for making Char Cloth,
- Basic pocket-knife & Totin’ Chit



## Mountain Man Bead Explanation

**Leather and Lace:** Leather and lace were used extensively by Mountain Men for making clothing or equipment when they needed.

**Stamps:** As years progressed, Mountain Men would decorate their clothing and equipment.

**Pony Beads:** A common trading item, bead colors would change based on the dye used each year.

**Wood Bead (Voyager):** While more valuable than a pony bead, beads made of wood were worth more than furs in trade.

**Metal Bead (Mountain Man):** Metal was precious. Beads made of metal were reserved for those who spent many years in the fur trade.

**Glass Bead (Council of Wisdom):** Reserved for the elite, glass beads would take much time to make and were given personal to select individuals for extended periods of service.

**Chevron (Camp Staff):** Made of layered glass, chevrons required much time to create. The unique "V" shape cuts require a special tool. The Camp Staff is unique and spent much time to serve you.

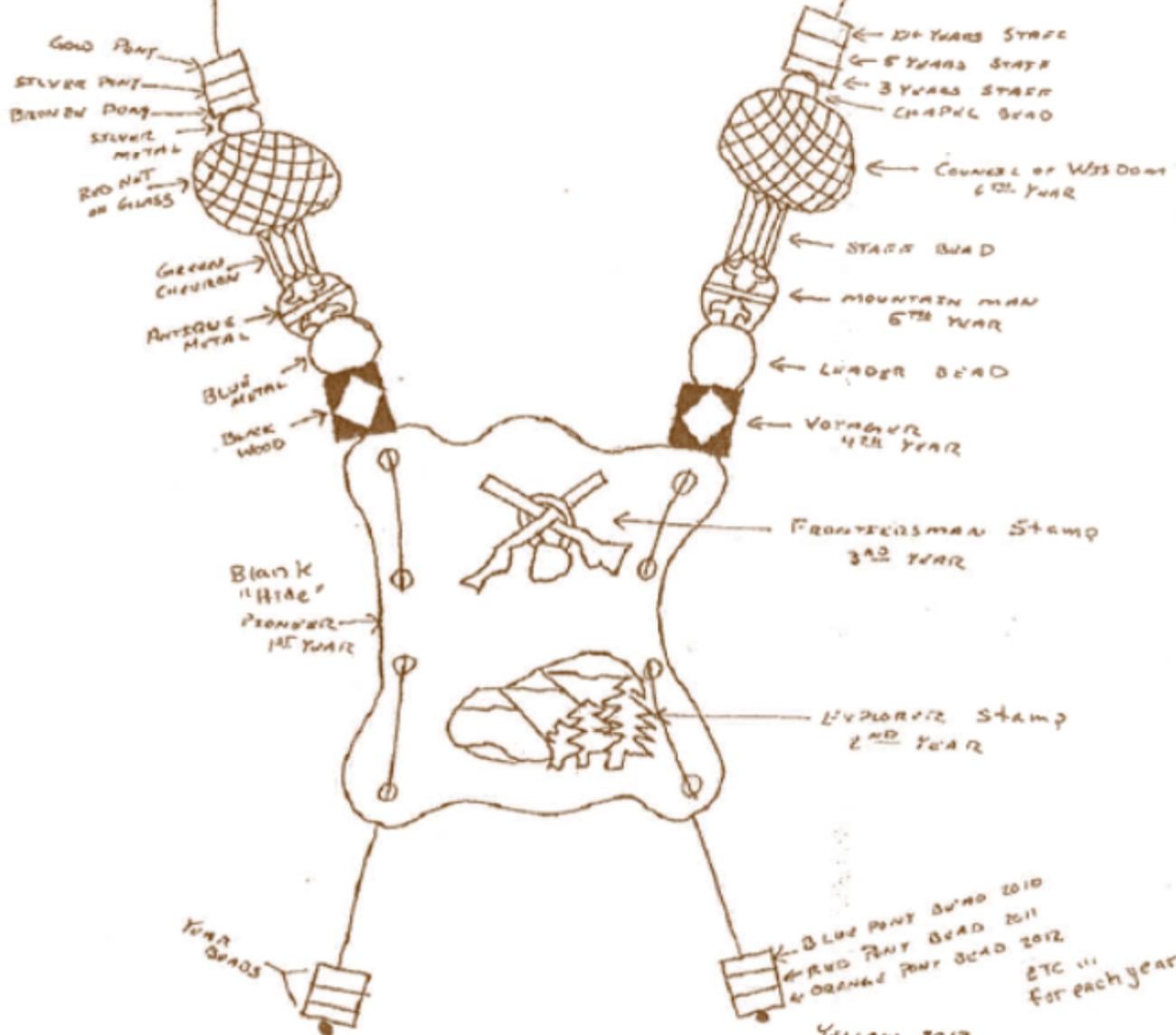
**Leader Bead:** Leaders of Mountain Men expeditions would receive a special recognition. Our unit leaders also receive this recognition, made of metal, to thank them for leading Scouts in camp this week. This includes the head Adult Leader and Senior Patrol Leader (SPL) for the week.

**Chapel:** A scout is reverent. Scouts attending chapel services will receive special recognition. Though small, this metal bead can be earned year after year.

**Staff Pony Beads:** Members of the Camp Cornhusker Staff who continue to serve our Camp for many summers will receive this special recognition. After 3 years a bronze bead will be given and a silver bead after 5 years. Any staffer who serves 10 or more summers, will receive a gold pony bead.



Gree - Graw  
 Explanation  
 MOUNTAIN MAN  
 Program @  
 Camp Cornhusker



- Blue pony bead 2010
- Red pony bead 2011
- Orange pony bead 2012
- ETC !!! For each year
- Yellow 2013
- Carolina Blue 2014
- Forest Green 2015
- Clear 2016
- Transparent Blue 2017
- Red 2018
- Orange 2019