

The Trail to Earning The Freedom Award

The Horizon Award

To be a candidate for The Freedom Award, a Trailman must have earned the Horizon Award. To reach this milestone, he must have **demonstrated mastery** of a significant skill set including **15 required and 10 elective Trail Badges**, performed **20 hours of servant service each year**, and **proven himself as a leader** among his peers by effectively . When these requirements have been met, a Trailman may begin the formal process of earning the Freedom Award.



Freedom Award Requirements

I. Earn a Major and Two Minors by Completing Freedom Experiences

A Trailmen must complete at least 4 Trail Life USA approved Freedom Experiences in fields of their choice. Field options include: Agriculture, Aquatics, Christian Education, Civics, Communication and Performance, Emergency Services, Exploration, Fitness, Mentoring, Science and Technology, Shooting Sports, Survival, or Trades.

- A major indicates significant experience in a chosen field and requires two Freedom Experiences in the same field.
- For each minor, an additional Freedom Experience must be completed in a second and third field.



2. Attendance and Participation

- A level of Troop meeting attendance acceptable to the leadership (typically 60% or better).
- Participation in at least 16 Troop activities since becoming an Adventurer, not including regular meetings.



3. Faith Building Activity

Completion of one of the approved Faith Building Activity Options demonstrating personal growth in their faith.

4. Servant Leadership Project

Budget, Plan, Organize a Volunteer Team, and lead a substantial project demonstrating significant leadership and organization which benefits a community service organization.

- [Josiah Meier Freedom Project](#)
- [Jaydon Ballman Freedom Project](#)

5. Evaluation

- An Advancement Conference with select Troop leadership reviewing successful completion of all required elements and preparation for the Board of Review.
- A Freedom Award Board of Review chaired by Area leadership and including representation from the Charter Organization.
- Final review and approval by the national volunteer Freedom Award Review Committee.

Sample Freedom Experience Courses



Agriculture:

- Raise and care for livestock
 - Minimum Duration: one year
 - Must be completed to satisfaction of Advisor or Trail Guide

Aquatics:

- Take a long paddlesports wilderness trip
 - E.g. Canoe trip to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area
 - Minimum duration: one week
- Complete Redcross Lifeguarding Certification

Christian Education:

- Volunteer for at least 60 hours in a single local service ministry
- Go a short-term Christian Mission Trip of at least one week

Civics:

- Serve in Student Government at your school for one school year
- Compete on a high school forensics, debate or speech team for at least three months

Communication and Performance:

- Write a full-length play that is performed
- Perform a major solo or speaking role in a theater production (minimum two months involvement and at least two performances)

Trades:

- Run a successful full-time summer lawn care, handyman, painting, or other similar business for at least 10 weeks
- Be an apprentice or intern part-time with a tradesman (plumber, electrician, contractor ...) for a least one school year.