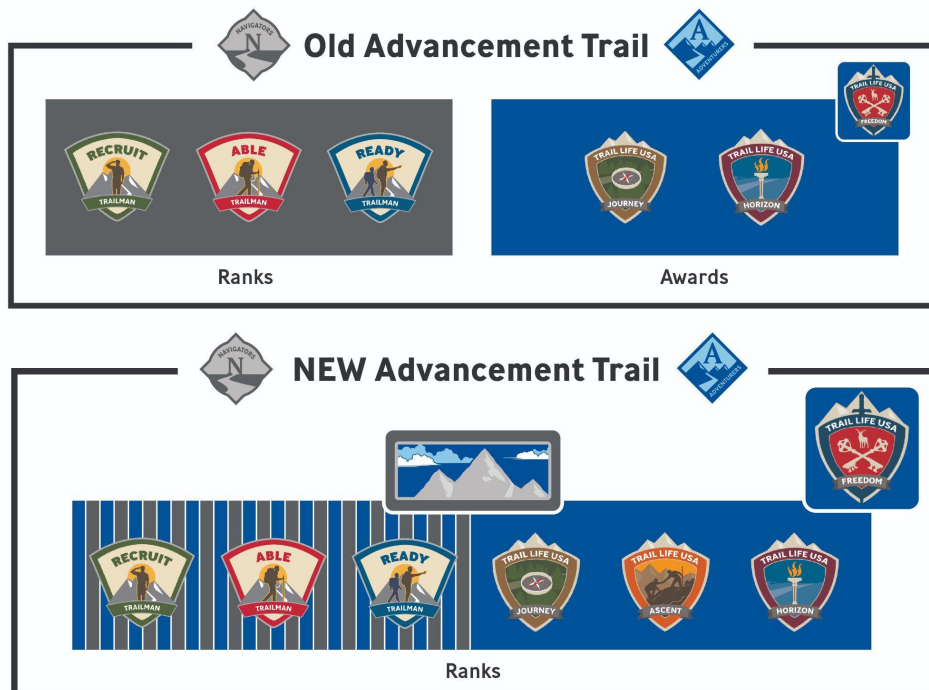




## 2023 Navigators and Adventurers Advancement Updates FAQs.

Both the Navigators and Adventurers advancement programs have been updated. Every Trailman will automatically be moved over to the new advancement structure on Monday, Aug 14, 2023. This structure has three main changes that affect every Navigator and Adventurer Trailman. Additional details are explained in the questions and answers.

1. The first change is the previous Navigator Ranks and Adventurer Awards have changed to one cumulative rank structure that spans both the Navigators and the Adventurers programs. Every Trailman (no matter their program) will begin with the Recruit Trailman Rank. However, only Adventurers can earn the last three ranks.
2. The Navigators program has a brand new Capstone Award, the Ridgeline Award, which has its own set of requirements including a Navigators project. This award is available ONLY to Navigator Trailmen who have already earned the Ready Trailman Rank. Once a Trailman becomes an Adventurer, he no longer may earn the Ridgeline Award.
3. The Adventurer program's new Journey **RANK** now has different requirements from the old Journey Award, AND there is a new rank, the Ascent Rank, between the Journey Rank and the Horizon Rank.



The following FAQs are primarily predicated on the assumption that Troops are tracking Trailmen's advancement in Trail Life Connect. "Outside" tracking systems other than Trail Life Connect are not recommended and would need to be updated manually by the individual Troops and their leaders.

Q: What is driving a proposed change in the advancement program?

A: This proposal attempts to address several perceived weaknesses in the advancement program, but the main drivers are:

- The large gap in the old program between the Journey Award and the Horizon Award, particularly for Trailmen who were not Navigators or made minimal progress in Trail Badges as a Navigator.
- The gap contributed to a fairly broad and unprioritized set of activities expected of a new Adventurer. Many of the proposed changes help to focus the Trailman's efforts on core outdoor skills while preserving flexibility within the Troop for unique Navigator and Adventurer programming.

Q: Where are these changes going to be displayed and/or recorded?

A: All paper and digital advancement tracking resources have been updated to reflect the new advancement program (Woodlands Trail Handbook, Navigators and Adventurers Handbook, Parent and Leader Guide, Posters, Tracking charts, Trail Life Connect, etc.)

Q: Where can I find all the new rank requirements?

A: The new Navigators and Adventurer Handbook, Trail Life Connect Badges and Advancement tabs, and the downloadable "2023 Rank Requirements Supplement" available in the Trail Life Connect Resources section.

Q: Are there any other details that changed besides the three main changes?

A: Yes,

- The Navigators Worthy Life Award is no longer a requirement for the Ready Trailman Rank. It is now a requirement for the Navigators Ridgeline Award.
- The first three ranks are rebranded as Core Skills Ranks.
- The last three ranks are branded as True Freedom Ranks.
- The old "Navigator Required Trail Badges" are now rebranded as Core Skills Trail Badges and are specifically required to be completed as part of the first three ranks (Core Skills Ranks).
- The old "Adventurer Required Trail Badges" are now rebranded as True Freedom Trail Badges and are specifically required to be completed as part of the last three ranks (True Freedom Ranks).

- The Journey Rank is NOT a joining rank for the Adventurers. It has a new set of requirements including Trail Badges, Troop Attendance, Troop Activities, and writing Freedom Experiences Plans.
- The “New” fifth rank, Ascent, has its own set of requirements including completing at least one Freedom Experience. This experience will count toward the four required for the Freedom Award.
- The Horizon Rank includes a new requirement of completing a second Freedom Experience. This experience also will count toward the four required for the Freedom Award.
- Required Troop Activities have changed for all ranks except Recruit Trailman to be at least 6 activities for each program year.

Q: For the 6 Troop activities for each program year, is that cumulative in order to earn the next rank? In other words, do the Trailmen need to complete 6 activities per year, per rank?

A: No. A Trailman only needs to complete six activities per year. Within that year he could move through a couple of ranks, but the minimum number of required activities would stay at six per program year.

Q: We already have Navigators and Adventurers in our Troop participating in the old advancement program. Can they continue to use the old advancement program?

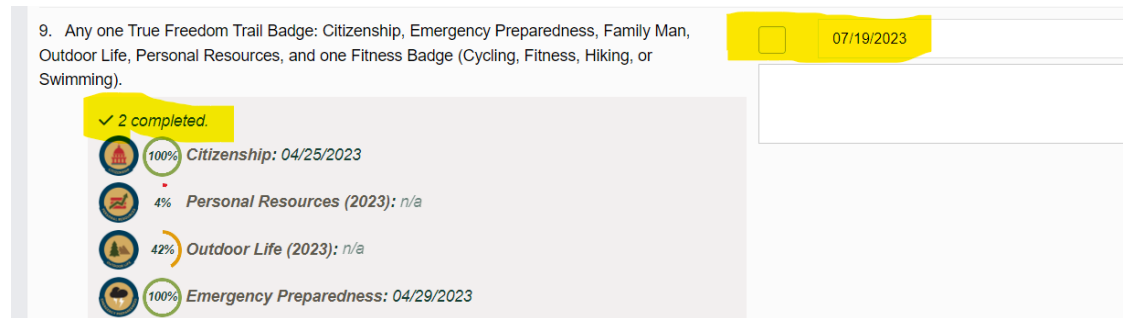
A: No. On Monday Aug 14, 2023 the Trail Life Connect advancement tracking system will automatically display the new advancement program.



Q: Will my Trailmen's advancement records all automatically roll over to the new advancement program?

A: Yes and No.

- All previously completed Trail Badges, Worthy Life Award requirements, Service Hours, Troop meeting Attendance, and Troop Activities will all show as fully completed.
- The Trailman's rank records will only show the last fully completed rank (according to the NEW rank requirements). Because the old Journey Award and Horizon Award were Awards and not ranks, many Trailman's Trail Life Connect profiles may only show the Recruit Trailman or Able Trailman Rank as complete.
- Individual requirements of the "uncompleted" ranks will have indicators on the Advancement tracking screen showing what certain requirements are already completed based on the Trailman's previously recorded work; however, the main requirement will be left unchecked (See screenshot below).



Q: So, what does that mean for Adventurers who completed the old Journey Award and are now working toward earning the Horizon Award but did not complete any or some of the lower old "Navigator" ranks of Recruit Trailman, Able Trailman, or Ready Trailman?

A: The work that the Trailman has completed during his time in Trail Life AND recorded in Trail Life Connect will automatically appear in Trail Life Connect according to where that work falls in the new rank structure.

- If a Trailman's work (previously recorded in TLC) happens to complete all the requirements of any of the NEW ranks, the TLC system will automatically show that rank as earned.
- If a Trailman's work (previously recorded in TLC) does NOT happen to complete all of the requirements for any of the NEW ranks, the TLC system will show indicators on the individual requirements of what work counts toward that requirement.
- Troop leaders will need to hold an advancement conference near the beginning of their program year for all their Navigators and Adventurers to review their records and ensure all requirements for the new ranks are accurately recorded.
- Note: The first three ranks of Recruit Trailman, Able Trailman, and Ready Trailman along with the Trail Badges associated with them are called the Core

Skills Trail Badges and Ranks. These Ranks and Badges embody the core skills that every Trailman both Navigator and Adventurer need to know first.

Q: How do Trailmen transition from the old advancement program to the new advancement system if our Troop and/or Trailman don't have advancement records in Trail Life Connect?

A: The Trailman and Troop leaders will use the appropriate flowchart (at the end of this document) to determine the appropriate credit he should receive in the new advancement system.

- After the Trailman's next NEW rank is determined, the Trailman will participate in a single Advancement Conference and Board of Review to bring him up-to-date in the new advancement system.

Q: The transition flowcharts look pretty complicated. What's the big idea?

A: The transition flowcharts implement the following principles:

- Navigators are only eligible to earn the first three ranks: Recruit Trailman, Able Trailman, and Ready Trailman.
- Adventurers may earn any of the six ranks: Recruit Trailman, Able Trailman, Ready Trailman, Journey, Ascent, and Horizon.
- Generally, Trailmen will earn the highest rank for which they are eligible, plus all lesser included ranks within the following parameters:
  - A Trailman must be current in Troop activities (6 non-Troop activities per year in the current program level).
  - A Trailman must be current in service hours (15/year as a Navigator and 20/year as an Adventurer).
  - The Trailman must have earned the appropriate number and type of Trail Badges to qualify for the rank sought.
  - Though the leadership requirement is progressive, that is, because each of the Ready Trailman, Journey, Ascent, and Horizon Ranks require a leadership component, a Trailman earning the Horizon Rank will typically have completed 4 leadership activities. However, at this initial transition, a total of only one leadership requirement will be required to earn these ranks.
  - At this initial transition, the Freedom Experience requirements for these ranks may be waived at the Troop's discretion.
- Trailmen who are (1) eligible to have earned the NEW Ready Rank, namely, have completed the Trail Badge requirements, the leadership activity, are current in their Troop activities and service for their current program level and (2) have also earned the Navigator Worthy Life Award may retroactively be awarded the Ridgeline Award.
  - Neither the Trail Badges need to have been earned as a Navigator nor the leadership activity completed as a Navigator to earn the Ridgeline Award during this initial transition.

- Note: This relaxation of these specific requirements applies only during the initial transition. A Navigator Trailman seeking to earn the Ridgeline Award after this initial transition must complete all Ready Trailman Rank requirements plus Ridgeline Award requirements as a Navigator.

Q: Are the service hours per year as a Navigator or as an Adventurer cumulative? In other words, if a Navigator Trailman only completed 10 hours of service his first year, does he need to go back and make up the 5 hours “missing” from the first year before completing 15 for his second year in order to progress in the ranks?

A: No, the hours are not cumulative. A Navigator Trailman will need to complete 15 hours of service in a year period in order to move forward in the ranks. He could progress through several ranks in that one year, but the minimum number of service hours needed to progress at all would be 15 per year. An Adventurer would need to complete a minimum of 20 hours of service per year. It is up to the Trailman and Troop leadership to accurately track and record the number of hours and the time period that they are for.

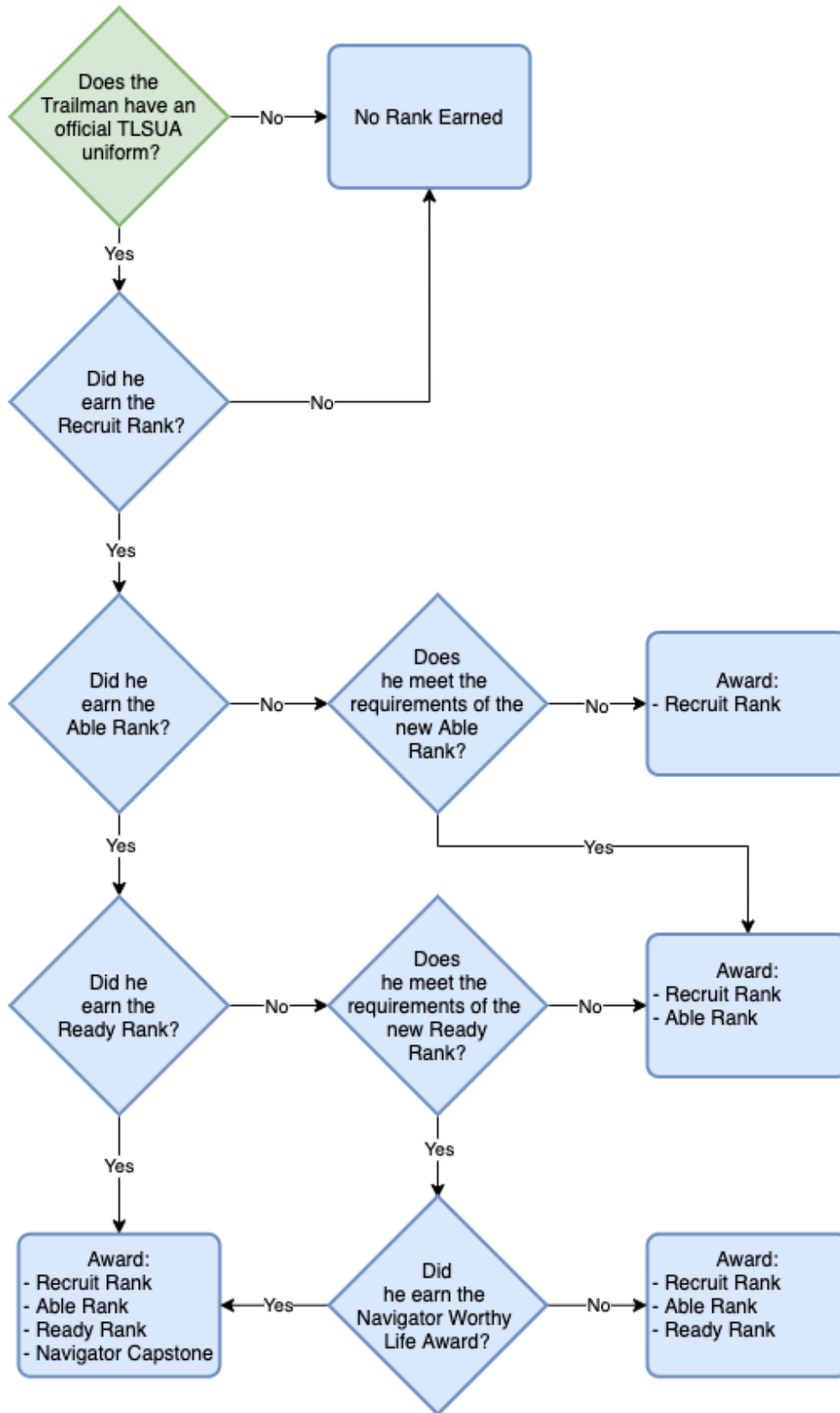
Q: We have a Trailman who has completed all the Trail Badge requirements for one of the ranks but is behind on service hours or Troop activities. Can we waive the service and Troop activity requirements?

A: No. Instead, the Trailman should focus his efforts on completing service hours and Troop activities in order to facilitate the transition to the desired rank.

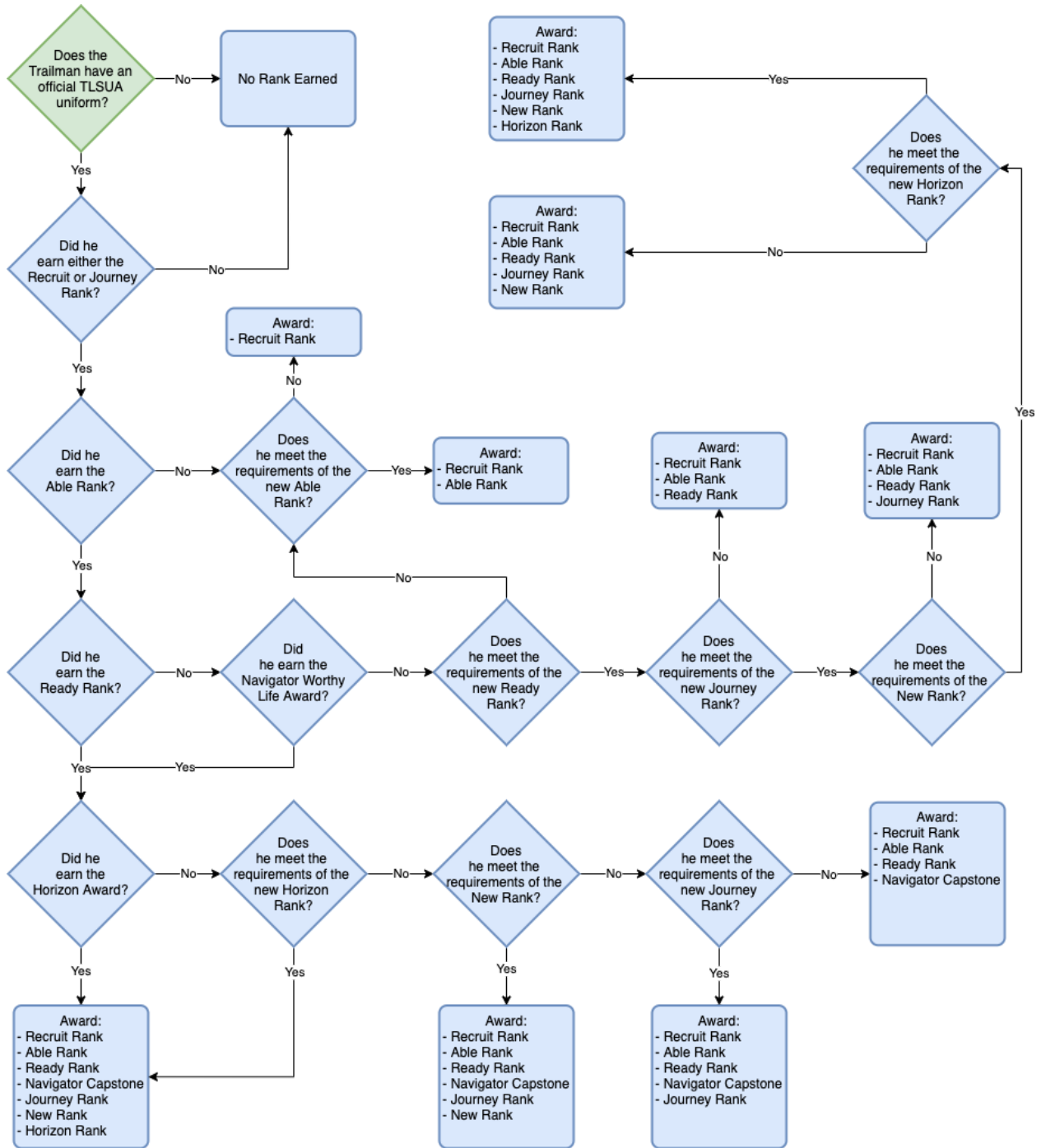
Q: I noticed that the ranks now state that Trailman must appear “in-uniform.” Is Trail Life requiring uniforms now?

A: The requirement is that Trailmen present themselves in a Troop-approved uniform option. Trail Life has three official options: Troop Uniform (Formal), Travel Uniform (Polo), and Trail Uniform (T-shirt). See pages 34-35 in the 2023 Navigators and Adventurers Handbook or page 16 in the Parent and Leader Guide.

## Flowchart for Trailman Who Are Currently Navigators



## Flowchart for Adventurers who were Navigators





## Flowchart for Adventurers who were not Navigators

