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## A New Top Notch for The Sons Of Daniel Boone.

John Muir

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Boy Scouts —

## A NEW TOP NOTCH FOR THE SONS OF DANIEL BOONE

JUST as we are going to press I received the following characteristic letter from the great wilderness traveler after whom the gigantic Muir glacier is named.

This completes our list of Top Notches. All the representative heroes to whom we have applied have gladly selected a Top Notch for the Sons of Daniel Boone to bear their name.

And now, boys, I want every club to elect all of these men honorary members of their fort and make haste to send them each a letter signed by Davy Crockett, Daniel Boone and all the officers. Mind you sign your own name and then your official name, thus: Lou Thrasher, Daniel Boone.

MARTINEZ, CALIFORNIA.

DEAR MR. BEARD:—

I would like to encourage walking in wild places, so that our boys may gradually grow up out of natural hunting, blood-loving savagery into natural sympathy with all our fellow-mortals—plants and animals, as well as men. Therefore, as my so-called Top Notch, I would suggest something like this:

**WALKING:** The walker making the best excursion in pure wilderness. Not necessarily the longest and most dangerous excursion up the highest mountains, through the deepest woods or across the widest torrents, glaciers or deserts, but the one, however, short or long, rough or smooth, calm or stormy, on which the able, fearless walker sees most, learns most, loves most and leaves the cleanest track. Whose heart and mind grow naturally, like trees, gathering inspiration from everything, and growing, however slowly, up out of natural savagery into natural, all-embracing sympathy,

overcoming all blood lust, carrying neither guns nor traps, drawing no pleasure from the pain of any of his fellow-mortals, however lowly—as, for example, from the so-called gameness of terrified fishes, rushing, gasping, struggling for life. Whose camp grounds are never marked by scarred trees, blood spots, bones or anything unsightly, and who learns to regard everything about him as friends and neighbors—the stars, the earth, planets and animals, as well as men.

Signed, JOHN MUIR.

### How to Cut Top Notches

Top Notches are cut in this manner ☼, and any Son of Daniel Boone winning one of these notches may have them recorded on the left sleeve with pieces of green tape sewed on—a single notch thus, —, a double thus, X, and a top notch thus, ☼.

Any Woodcraft Scout who joins a fort of the Sons of Daniel Boone and brings with him a certificate of a "coup" or "grand coup" is immediately awarded a notch or double notch, as the case may be. Simon Kenton at the same time cuts the record on the Tally Gun.

But the Sons of Daniel Boone award no notches for the killing of anything.

Many fort members write to us, saying, "We have not received the Tally Gun nor the notches." An engraving of the Founder's Tally Gun, together with a first notch, will be sent to the fort when the members or any individual member has by some deed of daring, courage, scholarship or record-breaking feat won one.

When you have organized a fort and are writing Dan Beard about it, be sure to give addresses in full of all the members.

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