

Troop 172

Advancement Overview



Rank Advancement

Overview

Boy Scouts advance through the ranks of:
Scout => Tenderfoot => Second Class => First Class => Star => Life => Eagle.

To advance in rank, a Scout must complete a set of requirements (*refer to Scout Handbook for details*).

A Scout should seek guidance and assistance from an Assistant Scoutmaster (ASM) or Scoutmaster (SM) to complete each requirement.

Work on these requirements can be done at any time, as long as it is reviewed and verified with an ASM or SM.

Requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class may be completed simultaneously (out of order).

To support our mission of developing self-sufficient boy leaders, please support and encourage your scout be his own advocate. This includes him taking ownership in seeking help with his advancement needs, obtaining signatures, requesting SM Conferences, requesting Board of Reviews (BORs), etc.

The Process

1. When an advancement rank requirement is completed, the Scout asks an ASM or SM to sign and date the blank in their book.
2. When all of the requirements are completed and signed off for a specific Advancement Rank (Scout, Tenderfoot, 2nd Class, 1st Class, Star, Life and Eagle) the Scout requests a SM Conference from the SM or an ASM.
 - This is the time when the SM (or one of the ASMs) reviews all the skills that the scout should have learned to achieve the next rank. These typically can take 30 minutes, and the Scout should know the required skills, the Scout Law and Oath and be in Class A uniform with their book.
3. Once the SM Conference is signed off, the Scout locates and requests the Advancement Chair to set up a board of review, which typically takes 30 minutes.
 - There is a maximum of three Boards of Review in one night; they must be scheduled at least one week in advance.
4. When the Scout has all the signatures from the review completed, the Scout shows his book to the Advancement Chair to get the rank officially recorded. The rank achievement date is recorded as the date the Board of Review took place. This is relevant for those ranks with time requirements (e.g. 4 months as a First Class, 6 months as a Star and Life Scout).
5. As soon as possible, the Advancement Chair should notify the SM of this new rank achievement so the Scout can be recognized immediately.
6. The Scout can receive his rank pin the day the rank is recorded with the Advancement Chair (or as soon as the pin can be made available).
7. The rank achievement is formally acknowledged at the next upcoming Court of Honor. **Rank advancements completed after the deadline for the next Court of Honor will be acknowledged at the following Court of Honor.**



Board of Review (BOR) Guidelines

What is a BOR?

The BOR occurs after a Scout has had his SM review. It is the last step towards earning a rank advancement. A BOR consists of at least three and no more than six registered adults who are not the SM or ASMs.

How does a Scout arrange a BOR?

When a Scout is ready for his BOR, the Scout will contact the Advancement Chair to request a board of review. A board of review will be scheduled at the earliest convenience, most likely at the following regular troop meeting.

How does a Scout dress for his BOR?

Scouts are requested to be in full Class "A" uniform at his BOR (see Chapter One in the Boy Scout Handbook); for Troop 172, this means wearing a complete uniform shirt with up-to-date badges, a neckerchief, having your shirt tucked in and buttoned up and Scout socks if shorts are worn.

Preparing for the Board of Review

- Memorize the Scout Oath, Law, Motto and Slogan
- Make sure your uniform is complete and up-to-date
- Review Chapter 1 of the Boy Scout Handbook
- Look at some of the questions that might be asked at your board of review by going to the following website and reviewing the suggested questions for the rank for which you are advancing:
 - http://www.macscouter.com/Scoutmaster/BoR_Guide.asp
- Bring your Boy Scout Handbook so we can check that your requirements have been fulfilled and also so we can sign your book upon completion of the BOR
- If you have earned any merit badges, be ready to talk about them

Can a BOR Decline Advancement?

If the board is hesitant to advance a Scout, it may give the Scout a few minutes to correct the deficiency. If this does not solve the issue, then the BOR can be suspended and reconvened in the near future when the shortfall has been corrected. Upon suspending the board of review, the board must detail the precise nature of the deficiency(ies) and the Scout told specifically what must be done in order to be successful at the next BOR. Afterwards, someone on the BOR must notify the SM regarding the deficiency(ies) and the course of action needed to correct them. In addition, the Scout's parents need to be told about the delay.

Examples of why a BOR may be suspended:

- Scout does not have his Boy Scout Handbook
- Scout has not memorized the Scout Oath and Scout Law
- Requirement(s) have not been signed off in the Boy Scout Handbook
- Scout treats the BOR frivolously or is not prepared to answer even the most basic questions asked.

TroopMaster Web

TroopMaster Web allows you to access your Scout's record from any internet connected system (including many handheld devices). It also allows you to access the application without installing any software on the local machine. This is especially useful for Mac or Linux users as well as accessing the data from machines where you are not allowed to install your own programs (e.g., Public Library or work computer).

For access, email advancement172@gmail.com with your name, email and Scout's name. Allow 10 days for access to be set up.

Board of Review Schedule

September 16

Final BOR and Blue Cards turned in by Sept. 9

March 31

Final BOR and Blue Cards turned in by March 24

Merit Badges (MB) Information

Earning MBs is necessary to advance through the ranks of Star through Eagle. Once a Scout has decided on what MB he would like to pursue, please follow this procedure.

1. Obtain a blue card from Advancement Chair. One blue card is needed for each MB.
2. Fill out blue card and get Scoutmaster/ASM/Advancement Chair signature.
3. If you are not attending an "Advancement Day" program, find a MB Counselor. Ask the Advancement Chair for this information.
4. Arrange to meet with counselor at advancement meetings or by appointment. Per the BSA Youth Protection Policy, meetings between a Scout and an adult may not be one-on-one in private. Thus, if arranging an appointment with a counselor, a Scout must ensure that he brings a parent or a buddy, or that other people will be present.
5. Get the latest MB pamphlet and study. The Troop library has a large collection of the various MB pamphlets available for check out. Please contact Troop Librarian. MB worksheets are available online; print them off and use them to record your work.
6. Meet with counselor to begin the MB work and begin fulfilling the requirements.
7. Counselor will fill out blue card as requirements are completed.
8. When all requirements are complete, Scout should obtain counselor signature on the blue card. At which time, counselor should retain the section of the blue card marked "Counselor's Record" for their records and return the rest to the Scout.
9. Scout should then obtain SM signature on the blue card.
10. Scout then turns in the blue card (remaining two sections) to Advancement Chair for processing and recording. Advancement Chair will retain the section marked "Application for Merit Badge" to record and file with the Council. The final section marked "Applicant's Record" will be attached to the MB and card.
11. MB and badge card (along with "Applicant's Record" section of the blue card) will be presented at the next Court of Honor. Blue MB cards submitted **after the deadline** will be presented at the following Court of Honor.

Additional Merit Badge Info

- A. If a Scout changes counselors part way through a Merit Badge's requirements, keep the partially completed blue card. Find a new counselor and use a new blue card for the remaining requirements to be completed. Staple the old blue card to the new one. Then continue with procedure Step 6 above.
- B. **IMPORTANT:** Once all requirements are completed, have the current counselor and Scoutmaster sign the new blue card and turn in both the old and new blue card to the Advancement Chair.
- C. Merit badges earned at summer camp are usually collected by the Scoutmaster at camp and turned in to the Advancement Chair for processing. Any partial blue cards will be returned to the Scout to be continued (Using procedure step A above.)

Note: Blue cards must be completed and signed before a Scout turns them in to the Advancement Chair for processing.