

Troop 75: RANK ADVANCEMENT

October 14, 2011

The requirements for the ranks of Tenderfoot through First Class prepare you to take full advantage of all that Scouting has to offer. Star, Life, and Eagle requirements focus on service to others and developing leadership skills.

Requirements for each rank are outlined in the Boy Scout Handbook. You can work on advancement requirements with your parents or other family members, with other Scouts and with adult Scout leaders. This can be done on your own, but it is highly encouraged to be done in patrol and troop meetings, and during other troop functions such as campouts.

SCOUT SKILLS

Scout skills cannot be mastered by performing them just once. You will have many opportunities to practice each skill, and you will be thoroughly tested on each requirement before it is "signed-off". In addition, expect to practice each skill repeatedly, even after it has been signed-off. As you progress, you will also have opportunities to teach these skills to less experienced Scouts, which will further reinforce your knowledge and skill.

As you complete each requirement, you will be tested and signed-off in the back section of your Boy Scout handbook by the Scoutmaster or by someone he designates. This designated person may be an Assistant Scoutmaster, committee member, or another, more experienced, Scout that has been appointed by the Scoutmaster.

For advancements in the ranks of Tenderfoot through First Class, you will be required to participate and complete a "Scout Skills Review Test" that is strictly based on the rank advancement requirements in the back of the Boy Scout Handbook. This test is not an "interrogation" or "grilling" session. Instead, it is a way for the Scoutmaster to gauge your skill level and where you may have deficiencies in your basic scout skills and knowledge. You should be able to demonstrate the rank advancement skills and thoroughly discuss your knowledge for the specific rank advancement. The Scout Skills Review Test is administered by the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters and is commonly conducted before the Scoutmaster conference. This test helps the Scoutmaster determine whether you are ready for next rank advancement.

If the Scoutmaster determines that you require additional learning and training for advancement during the Scout Skills Review Test, your rank advancement will be deferred and the Scout Skills Review Test will be considered "incomplete". This rank deferral should not be considered as a "failure". Instead, it should help you pinpoint and strengthen your skills where it is most needed. You will be informed on which specific skills is deficient so proper learning and training can be administered for improvement. After you have attained the proper skills, you should reschedule another Scout Skills Review Test with the Scoutmaster. The subsequent Scout Skills Review Test should only re-test the deficient skills. When the Scoutmaster decides that you are able to demonstrate the rank advancement skills and thoroughly discuss your knowledge that was deficient, the Scout Skills Review Test should be complete.

It is with full support and positive encouragement of all troop members and adult leader that you gain the proper skills and knowledge to attain all rank advancements. We want to see all our scouts succeed in advancing to the next rank with the proper skills and knowledge. The basic scout skills are very essential in creating a solid foundation for having strong leadership skills in the ranks of First Class and beyond.

After the Scout Skills Review Test, the Scoutmaster has the final say or decision on whether a scout is able to advance or is deferred for advancement.

ADVANCEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

It's up to you to take advantage of the advancement opportunities available to you, and to take initiative to ask for someone to test you when you are ready. You are responsible for keeping your own personal advancement record in your handbook. You should also record your service hours, campouts, troop activities, and leadership positions in your handbook.

You must earn the ranks in order, but you may complete any requirement for Tenderfoot through First Class at any time. (For example, you may complete a First Class requirement before finishing your Tenderfoot requirements, but you must earn Tenderfoot rank before you are awarded Second Class and First Class ranks.)

Prior to requesting a Scout Skills Review Test and Scout Master Conference for the rank advancements of Tenderfoot through First Class, you are required to be reviewed and approved by your Senior Patrol Leader (SPL), Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL), or someone appointed by the Scoutmaster for advancement. The SPL or ASPL will be checking and reviewing your Boy Scout handbook and making sure you have all the necessary basic skills and requirements checked-off. This is not a test, nor an "interrogation" or "grilling" session. Instead, it is a session for positive and encouraging mentoring, advising and learning between you and your SPL. This is a good time for you to ask for help in any scout skill and knowledge that may be "rusty" and needs practice or review. The goal is to help reinforce the "Boy-

Led" Troop ideal and your scout knowledge and skills in preparation for the Scout Skills Review Test. Once you are approved for advancement from your SPL, he will then present you to the Scoutmaster as "Ready for Advancement". You may now proceed to request a Scout Skills Review Test from your Scoutmaster.

SCOUTMASTER CONFERENCE

You will be meeting regularly with the Scoutmaster to discuss your activity in the troop and your understanding and practice of the ideals of Scouting. This Scoutmaster conference is also used to discuss your goals and accomplishments and is required for each rank advancement.

You do not have to wait until you have completed the requirements for a rank in order to ask for a Scoutmaster conference. You may talk with the Scoutmaster at any time that is convenient to both of you. However, for a Scoutmaster conference to count toward rank advancement it must take place **after** all other respective rank requirements are signed-off, the "Scout Skills Review Test" is completed, and before the Board of Review. At this required conference, the Scoutmaster will also determine whether or not you are ready to go before the Board of Review.

An important part of the Scoutmaster conference is a discussion and evaluation of your Scout Spirit. Scout spirit is an ideal attitude that Scouts are supposed to show, based on adherence to the Scout Law and Scout Oath. Having good Scout Spirit is necessary to being a proper scout and is considered for all rank advancements.

After the Scout Masters Conference, the Scoutmaster has the final say or decision on whether a scout is able to advance or is deferred for advancement.

BOARD OF REVIEW

After your Scoutmaster Conference requirement is signed-off, it is your responsibility to arrange for your Board of Review. Boards of Review for all ranks except Eagle Scout, are normally held once a month, and are composed of three to six registered members of the troop committee. (Eagle Scout Boards of Review are arranged through your Council or District Advancement Committee and can have other members.) The Board of Review may not include the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters, or your family members.

The purpose of the Board of Review is not to retest you but rather to ensure that you have completed all of the requirements, to determine the quality of your troop experience, and to encourage you to advance toward the next rank. (Sometimes you will meet a Board of Review even when you are not ready for the next rank, in order to check your progress and to see how things are going for you in the troop and in your patrol. The troop Advancement Chairman may schedule you for such a Board of Review when (s)he feels that an extended period has passed since your last Board of Review.)

You need to have your Boy Scout Handbook and should be in your complete field uniform (Full Class A – BSA Shirt, pants or shorts, hat/cap, and socks) when you appear before a Board of Review. At the beginning of the review, the president of the board will bring you into the room, introduce you to the board, and invite you to be seated. During the review, the board will discuss your development along your trail to Eagle, ask you questions about skills that were required for your particular rank, and evaluate you in terms of troop activities and readiness for the next rank. It is also a time for you to ask any questions you might have and to give feedback to the troop committee about activities and your Scouting experience in your troop and in your patrol. At the end of the review you will be asked to leave the room while the board discusses your qualifications. The board will then call you back into the room and inform you either that you have been approved for the next rank or what additional actions you must take to qualify.

After passing the Board of Review, you will be recognized in front of the troop as soon as possible. You will receive your new rank patch shortly after, usually at the next Court of Honor Ceremony. You will be formally recognized for your rank advancements and merit badges in front of family and friends during a ceremony at a Court of Honor. At this time you will be presented with your wallet-sized certificate card and, if your troop presents them, a rank pin ("mother's pin"). Most troops schedule four Courts of Honor each year. Your parents, other family members, and friends are invited and encouraged to attend all Courts of Honor.

After reaching the rank of Life Scout, you will meet with one of the adult leaders in the troop. At this meeting you will receive your Life to Eagle packet and discuss ideas and suggestions for your Eagle Service Project. This project must conform to special guidelines that have been outlined by the Boy Scouts of America. Your Scoutmaster, troop Advancement Chairman, and a representative of your District Advancement Committee, as well as the benefiting organization, must approve your project before you begin carrying it out.

This Rank Advancement information is used as a general guide and is subject to changes and revisions. If you have any questions or need clarifications about rank advancements, please contact your Scoutmaster.

Keep Trekking on the Trail to Eagle!