

Rank Advancement

A new Scout needs to review with his parents or guardian the joining requirements listed on page 4 of the Scout Handbook. As soon as these requirements are signed off and the Scout has his first Scoutmaster Conference, he can receive his Scout badge. This is the first step on the road to the rank of Eagle Scout. There are four basic parts to Boy Scout advancement and they apply to all six ranks:

1. The Scout Learns: A new Scout starts learning as soon as he joins.
2. The Scout is Tested: Advancement is a natural outcome of a boy's regular Scouting activities. When an adult leader or senior youth leader recognizes that a Scout has mastered a given skill, he will inform the Scout that the particular requirement has been satisfied and will record this fact in the appropriate section of the Scout Handbook.
3. Scoutmaster conference: When the Scoutmaster, Advancement Chairman or adult leaders see that all requirements for rank are completed, the Scoutmaster has a conference with the scout. The purpose of the conference is to develop over a period of time an increasing level of understanding and trust between the scoutmaster and each scout. These conferences enable the scoutmaster to emphasize that Scout spirit means living the Scout Oath and Law in the scout's everyday life.
4. The Scout is Reviewed: Upon completing all the requirements for a specific rank, the Scout appears before a "Board of Review" comprised of members of the troop committee and other interested Scout parents (except his parents or guardian). The purpose of the Board of Review is not to retest the boy, but to make sure that he has met all requirements for the rank and to informally talk about his feelings regarding his Scouting experience.
5. The Scout is Recognized: Once a Scout has passed his Board of Review, he is recognized as soon as possible. Formal recognition for rank advancement and merit badges will take place at the Court of Honor.

Note: rank advancement must be recorded in the Scout Handbook and then it is the boy's responsibility to contact the Advancement Chairperson for proper recording in the troop records and at the Council level.

Courts of Honor

A Scout and his parents are expected to attend every Court of Honor, whether or not he will receive an award. They will be held two or three times a year and will be the occasion for recognizing our boys' achievements. **All requests for rank advancement and merit badges will be turned in to the Advancement Chairman at least two weeks prior to the Court of Honor** - this allows adequate time for ordering the awards as well as time to prepare the program for the evening.

Merit Badge Information

- Any scout, regardless of rank, can earn merit badges.
- The scout decides which merit badge he wants to earn.
- See if another scout might want to work on the badge. (optional)
- Talk to the Scoutmaster about earning the badge.
- Get a blue card from the Advancement Chairman. Fill in the required information on the card and get it signed by the Scoutmaster **BEFORE** the work on the merit badge is started.
- If the counselor is from outside Troop 14, get the telephone number of a counselor for the merit badge from the Advancement Chairman.
- Call the counselor and ask for suggestions that could help in fulfilling the requirements for the badge. Get a merit badge book from the troop library or purchase one at the Scout Service Center.
- Work on the badge. Do all the writing needed and ask the counselor for help if needed.
- The Scout (**Not a parent**) makes a call to the counselor to ask for an appointment.
- The Scout goes in full uniform, with a signed blue card and all finished work.
- The Scout demonstrates all work.
- The counselor signs the blue card and keeps his copy of the card.
- The Scout gives the advancement portion of the blue card to the Advancement Coordinator, for Troop records, and keeps the part of the card that is for "Applicant."
- The scout has earned the badge!
- The Scout will be presented with the merit badge patch and will be recognized at the next Court of Honor.
- Parents **keep the scout portion of the merit badge card in a safe place.** It may be needed to verify work done as the scout gets ready for Eagle Scout.

The Boy Scout Requirements handbook has all the Merit Badge requirements printed in full. This is extremely useful for the Scout to browse to see what Badges are of interest to him. This book is available at the Scout Council office in Santa Rosa. There may also be a copy in the Troop library.