

Advancements

Advancement Principles

- Personal growth is the prime consideration in the program
- Learning by doing
- Each youth progresses at his own rate
- A badge is recognition of what a young person is able to do, not just a reward for what he has done
- Advancement encourages Scouting Ideals
- Scoutmaster oversees Scout advancement
- Advancement Coordinator maintains records and arranges Boards of Review and Courts of Honor

There are four steps in the Boy Scout Advancement Process

- The Scout learns...
- The Scout is tested...
- The Scout is reviewed...
- The Scout is recognized...

Advancement Process

1. Scout works with his Troop Guide, patrol, and troop as well as independently to earn requirements for his rank.
2. Scout has completed requirements signed and dated by a qualified Scout
3. Scout contacts Scoutmaster to schedule a Scoutmaster Conference.
4. Upon Scoutmaster's approval, Scout contacts the Advancement Chair to schedule Board of Review
5. Advancement Chair schedules Board of Review with Committee
6. Scout and Board of Review members meet
7. Upon approval, Scout is approved for rank advancement
8. Scout is recognized at meeting for rank advancement and received rank patch
9. Scout receives formal recognition & completion card at next Court of Honor

Scoutmaster Conferences

- Essential to individual Scout development and advancement
- Getting to know the Scout
- Setting individual goals
- Mentoring
- Building confidence
- Encouragement
- Problem Solving and discipline
- Scouts responsible for scheduling an advancement Scoutmaster Conference after requirements for rank advancement completed

Board of Review

- Evaluation of the effectiveness of the Scouting program within the troop
- Review is not an examination
- Make sure Scout has completed the requirements
- Determine how good an experience Scout is having within the Troop
- Encourage Scout to advance further
- Scout is responsible for scheduling a BOR after completing the Scoutmaster Conference with the Advancement Chair who then schedules it with the Troop Committee

Troop 33's 5 Guidelines About Advancement

1. Parents cannot sign-off rank advancement; this is the job of the Scouts and Troop YOUTH Leadership.
2. The Scout, *prior* to any work being started on a merit badge, will get a Merit Badge Application (aka Blue Card) from the Scoutmaster. The Scoutmaster will provide names of qualified Merit Badge Counselor(s). The Advancement Chairperson reserves the right to disallow any advancement or merit badge signed-off by an unapproved individual.
3. When the Scout has completed the Merit Badge and the blue card is properly signed off, the Scout will give the completed blue card to the advancement chair who will return a portion of the card to the Scout. It is the Scout's responsibility to keep this card safe until their 18th Birthday. The blue card is *always* required.
4. Scouts will be encouraged to advance, but will not be *pushed* to advance.
5. Even though the Advancement Chairperson maintains records of each Scout's advancement, it is each Scout's responsibility to maintain written proof of his advancement. *The Boy Scout Handbook* provides places to have requirements signed-off and Scouts will be given a signed card for each merit badge or rank advancement.

First Class Emphasis Program

Troop 33 focuses on new Scout development and advancement to First Class within the first year

From the *Scoutmaster Handbook*:

"A boy who advances to First Class within his first year in Scouting has a better-than-average chance of eventually becoming an Eagle Scout."

BSA statistics confirm the Scout who achieves this goal is likely to stay in Scouting for a longer period of time.

Service Hours

- BSA has a commitment to service within the community.
- Troop 33 has proudly earned the Gold level in Scouting's Journey to Excellence annually.
- Each rank has a required number of service hours that must be completed.
- All projects **MUST** be submitted to and discussed with Scoutmaster **PRIOR TO** beginning Project. Credit **may not** be given for projects not approved in advance!
(See Service Project Confirmation Sheet)
- Troop 33 participates in *at least* 6 Troop-initiated service opportunities each year.
- All service hour requirements for First Class, Star, Life and Eagle will be earned working on projects of the Scout's choosing and must be approved by the Scoutmaster **PRIOR** to starting the project. Any project completed without prior approval may, at the Scoutmaster's discretion, be disallowed.
- If you have suggestions or ideas for a service-related opportunity, please contact the Community and Service Project Coordinator or the Scoutmaster.
- These opportunities align with the Scout Oath regarding "help other people at all times..."