

REF Scout Mater Conference Expectation Preparation Messaging.

Offered By: Todd Grovatt - T52 ASM - 2021

Note, Below are three rank SMC messages which are designed to set expectations for First Class, Star and Life which are similar, but I tried to escalate the urgency and messaging about leadership as the Scout advances from First Class to Life.

The general scout skillset is based on the same material and Scout Skills they have learned up through first class, but I expect a different level of mastery as they rank up.

At **First Class** they should have a decent grasp of the scout skill that they have completed and been signed off for. The reality is they will have forgotten some of the things they learned in the earlier ranks. I give them a bit more slack, help and guidance on items they struggle with at this level.

At **Star** they should know the material well enough to teach others, but at this stage they are still learning it over again and they forget some of it and generally need some refresher. But every time I help them through a skill at this level, I remind them they will need to know this better at the Life SMC.

At **Life**, I expect they should have a firm grasp of the Skills and be able to teach them to younger scouts with confidence.

As we know every Scout absorbs and retains this information differently. But repetition is what sets it in their brains for the long term, which is why I review the full set of skills at each level.

Setting expectations for the SMC helps head off the issues with both Scouts and Parents if things do not go well.

Life Scout SMC preparation message:

We should be able to complete the Life SMC in about 45 minutes if things move along quickly. It can sometimes take up to an hour depending on how things are going. The key to moving through it quickly is if you are prepared to show me your knots and lashings with confidence. That part often takes the longest.

The Scoutmaster Conference is not a test but is a time for the Scout to visit with a Scoutmaster to ask any questions they may have, and a time for us to review and confirm the Scout is ready to advance to be a Life Scout in Troop 52.

I do not expect that you have memorized every piece of information from the Scout Book that you have learned up to Star Scout. The goal of Scouting is not rote memorization of the Scout Book. But we will review the general knowledge you have learned with a focus on the scout skills (knots, camping, first aid, etc.) and leadership responsibility.

I want to be clear that the goal of a Scoutmaster Conference is not to trip you up or keep you from advancing, but it is to confirm you have the skills, knowledge, attitude and maturity to be ready for an expanded role as a youth leader in Troop 52.

As a Life Scout in Troop 52, you will be in the leadership group of older boys in the troop with additional responsibility to mentor the younger boys and show them what it means to be a Scout. You will be on a path to become a bigger part of the Troop 52 Youth Leadership. We want to be sure that our Scouts are ready to begin the next step of their scouting journey.

We will discuss and review the following general topics:

- We will review the expectation and responsivity of a Life Scout in our Troop
- We will discuss how you are doing in Scouting and your experience with Troop 52
- We will Review Scout Oath, Scout Law, and what that means to you. I will ask you to recite them from memory.
- We will review general first aid knowledge and I would like for you to show me your Philmont first aid kit and discuss when, why and how to use the specific items you carry.
- I will ask you to show me and discuss applications for all of the knots you have learned from Scout through First Class Rank. Please have two lengths of paracord, 1/4" or 3/8" sized rope about 3-4 ft long for the general knot tying.
- I will ask you to show me the Square, Diagonal and Shear lashings. You should have two medium size sticks and a n appropriate rope for lashings. The sticks should be about 2 ft long and about 1" thick (approximately). The rope should be paracord or 1/4"-3/8" rope that is about 6-8 ft long. I do not like to use things like pencils and shoelaces or chopsticks, dowel rods or other small scale substitutes for lashing as it does not give the same experience for actually tying and lashing with sticks and rope.

If there is a skill or knowledge area that is in question, the Scoutmaster will attempt to help you through it using the Edge method. If after a short review you can remember and show the skill independently we will move on. If the skill or topic still continues to be a weak area, the scout may be asked to continue to practice and work on those skills until such time that they are ready. This could be an hour later, the next day, the next week or whenever they are ready. We would not need to repeat the entire conference. We would only need to review and confirm the missing components.

For Reference, Below is the Oath that each new Troop 52 Life Scout will take at Court of Honor. This will summarize what it means to be a Life scout and give you some perspective on why it is important to be ready to take on this role.

*The rank of **Life Scout** is one that few scouts in the troop achieve. Scouts earning this rank have done so by showing that they seek the true Spirit of Scouting. They have mastered the outdoor skills required to obtain the rank of First-Class, practiced their service to others to become a Star Scout and finally gained a true understanding of Scout Spirit thru hard work and perseverance to earn the rank of Life Scout.*

The path they are traveling, the path towards Eagle, requires an even deeper understanding of Scout Spirit and service to others. What they learn as they continue is that badges have no substance without the spirit and service offered willingly towards others.

In receiving your Life rank tonight, you are approaching your last step on your path toward Eagle Scout. You have shown that you can lead your troop in service and share in the Scouting experiences you have received from those who went before you.

Tonight, you are entering that select group who will directly work towards their Eagle rank. In doing so, you must not only give service, you must also lead others in performing a service project of your choosing. Your willingness to do so will be a pledge of your own commitment and a sign of your understanding of the ideals of Scouting. When you are finished with the requirements set before you, you will indeed be worthy to join those very few who are Eagle Scouts.

May the Life Scout badge that you now wear be a constant reminder of the life of service that will shine as a guide to lead you on the trail to manhood. The heart shape of the badge is symbolic of life and courage. For you, now, the Scout Oath and the Scout Law will mean more than ever before. You will strive to make them the keys of your conduct. This miniature badge is for your mother or father to recognize their love, encouragement, and faith in you. The shape of your new badge symbolizes life and growth. You must continue to grow in Scouting, but at the same time, share

your knowledge and skills with others. Are you prepared to meet these obligations?

I look forward to meeting with you at our Scoutmaster Conference.
Let me know if you have any questions.

YIS,
Mr. Grovatt
Assistant Scoutmaster, Troop 52

Star Scout SMC preparation message:

Here is some information regarding what I will expect tonight and what you should be prepared for.

We should be able to complete the Star SMC in about 45 minutes if things move along quickly. It can sometimes take up to an hour depending on how things are going. The key to moving through it quickly is if you are prepared to show me your knots and lashings with confidence. That part often takes the longest.

The Scoutmaster Conference is not a test but is a time for the Scout to visit with a Scoutmaster to ask any questions they may have, and a time for us to review and confirm the Scout is ready to advance to be a Star Scout in Troop 52.

I do not expect that you have memorized every piece of information from the Scout Book that you have learned up to first class. The goal of Scouting is not rote memorization of the Scout Book. But we will review the general knowledge you have learned with a focus on the scout skills (knots, camping, first aid, etc.) and leadership responsibility.

I want to be clear that the goal of a Scoutmaster Conference is not to trip you up or keep you from advancing, but it is to confirm you have the skills, knowledge, attitude and maturity to be ready for an expanded role as a youth leader in Troop 52. As a Star Scout in Troop 52, you will be one of the older boys in the troop with additional responsibility to mentor the younger boys and show them what it means to be a Boy Scout. You will be on a path to become a bigger part of the Troop 52 Youth Leadership. We want to be sure that our Scouts are ready to begin the next step of their scouting journey.

We will discuss and review the following general topics:

- We will review the expectation and responsivity of a Star Scout in our Troop
- We will discuss how you are doing in Scouting and your experience with Troop 52
- We will Review Scout Oath, Scout Law, and what that means to you. I will ask you to recite them from memory.
- We will review general first aid knowledge and I would like for you to show me your Philmont first aid kit and discuss when, why and how to use the specific items you carry.

- I will ask you to show me and discuss applications for all of the knots you have learned from Scout through First Class Rank. Please have two lengths of paracord, 1/4" or 3/8" sized rope about 3-4 ft long for the general knot tying.
- I will ask you to show me the Square, Diagonal and Shear lashings. You should have two medium size sticks and a real rope for lashings. The sticks should be about 2 ft long and about 1" thick (approximately). The rope should be paracord or 1/4"-3/8" rope that is about 6-8 ft long. I do not like to use things like pencils and shoelaces or chopsticks, dowel rods or other small scale substitutes for lashing as it does not give the same experience for actually tying and lashing with sticks and rope.

If there is a skill or knowledge area that is in question, the Scoutmaster will attempt to help you through it using the Edge method. If after a short review you can remember and show the skill independently we will move on. If the skill or topic still continues to be a weak area, the scout may be asked to continue to practice and work on those skills until such time that they are ready. This could be an hour later, the next day, the next week or whenever they are ready. We would not need to repeat the entire conference. We would only need to review and confirm the missing components.

For Reference, Below is the Oath that each new Troop 52 Star Scout will take at Court of Honor. This will summarize what it means to be a Star scout and give you some perspective on why it is important to be ready to take on this role.

*These young men have completed the requirements for the rank of **Star Scout**.*

Gentlemen, the rank of Star is a significant advancement milestone.

Up through First Class rank, advancement was driven by learning new skills such as cooking, first aid, knots and other camping skills. Earning the Star rank demonstrates a scout's ability to use a completely different set of skills,,, that of leading and serving. To earn the rank of Star scout, you: Were active in the troop for at least 4 months after earning First Class Showed Scout spirit consistently Earned at least 4 Eagle required merit badges Earned at least 2 elective merit badges Did at least 6 hours of service projects Served at least 4 months in troop leadership positions Completed a scoutmaster conference and board of review.

You are receiving your Star rank today not only because of the merit badges you have earned and fulfilling a position of responsibility ... you have also demonstrated that you can set and commit to goals ... you are ready to help your fellow scout ... you care about your community and you continue to uphold the Scout Oath and Law.

By accepting this rank of Star Scout, you are taking on more responsibilities to this troop and its success. As a Star scout you'll be looked upon as a role model for younger scouts and be given more responsibilities to help them grow through scouting.

It is not a difficult role, but a very important role. If this a challenge you are willing to accept as a Star Scout

I look forward to meeting with you at our Scoutmaster Conference.
Let me know if you have any questions.

YIS,
Mr. Grovatt
Assistant Scoutmaster, Troop 52

First Class Scout SMC preparation message:

Here is some information regarding what I will expect tonight and what you should be prepared for.

We should be able to complete the First Class SMC in about 45 minutes if things move along quickly. It can sometimes take up to an hour depending on how things are going. The key to moving through it quickly is if you are prepared to show me your knots and lashings with confidence. That part often takes the longest.

The Scoutmaster Conference is not a test but is a time for the Scout to visit with a Scoutmaster to ask any questions they may have, and a time for us to review and confirm the Scout is ready to advance to be a Star Scout in Troop 52.

I do not expect that you have memorized every piece of information from the Scout Book that you have learned up to first class. The goal of Scouting is not rote memorization of the Scout Book. But we will review the general knowledge you have learned with a focus on the scout skills (knots, camping, first aid, etc.) and leadership responsibility.

I want to be clear that the goal of a Scoutmaster Conference is not to trip you up or keep you from advancing, but it is to confirm you have the skills, knowledge, attitude and maturity to be ready for an expanded role as a youth leader in Troop 52. As a First Class Scout in Troop 52, you will begin to take on more leadership roles in the troop with additional responsibility to mentor the younger boys and show them what it means to be a Boy Scout. You will be on a path to become a bigger part of the Troop 52 Youth Leadership. We want to be sure that our Scouts are ready to begin the next step of their scouting journey.

We will discuss and review the following general topics:

- We will review the expectation and responsivity of a First Class Scout in our Troop
- We will discuss how you are doing in Scouting and your experience with Troop 52
- We will Review Scout Oath, Scout Law, and what that means to you. I will ask you to recite them from memory.

- We will review general first aid knowledge and I would like for you to show me your personal first aid kit and discuss when, why and how to use the specific items you carry.
- I will ask you to show me and discuss applications for all of the knots you have learned from Scout through First Class Rank. Please have two lengths of paracord, 1/4" or 3/8" sized rope about 3-4 ft long for the general knot tying.
- I will ask you to show me the Square, Diagonal and Shear lashings. You should have two medium size sticks and a real rope for lashings. The sticks should be about 2 ft long and about 1" thick (approximately). The rope should be paracord or 1/4"-3/8" rope that is about 6-8 ft long. I do not like to use things like pencils and shoelaces or chopsticks, dowel rods or other small scale substitutes for lashing as it does not give the same experience for actually tying and lashing with sticks and rope.

If there is a skill or knowledge area that is in question, the Scoutmaster will attempt to help you through it using the Edge method. If after a short review you can remember and show the skill independently we will move on. If the skill or topic still continues to be a weak area, the scout may be asked to continue to practice and work on those skills until such time that they are ready. This could be an hour later, the next day, the next week or whenever they are ready. We would not need to repeat the entire conference. We would only need to review and confirm the missing components.

For Reference, Below is the Oath that each new Troop 52 First Class Scout will take at Court of Honor. This will summarize what it means to be a First Class Scout and give you some perspective on why it is important to be ready to take on this role.

*The **First-Class rank** represents a significant step on the Eagle Trail.*

First-Class Scouts have learned to abide by the code to which a true and mature Scout is forever bound, his personal honor and the Scout Oath and Law.

Scouts earning this rank have mastered the outdoor skills of Scouting and can be counted on to take care of themselves and others in just about every outdoor setting.

First-Class Scouts have advanced from a novice to enjoy living in the outdoors for longer periods of time. As we present you with your First-Class badge and rank

advancement card, we charge you to continue your development as a Scout, so that you may better serve others.

In your next steps in Scouting you will start learning the skills that will help you guide others along the path of Scouting. You will earn the next ranks in Scouting by learning from the members of your community.

Merit badges will teach you various areas of knowledge that the community may offer. Community service will help in developing your pride and confidence in what you do. Junior leadership in your patrol and the troop will help you with taking on responsibility as you grow.

The guideposts for your next steps in Scouting are the Scout Oath and Law. You will be asking the community for help in your advancement and you need to provide the community with your help as well.

We congratulate you for achieving your First-Class rank, and ask if you are willing and able to accept the responsibilities as well as the privileges that accompany the First-Class Scout?

I look forward to meeting with you at our Scoutmaster Conference.
Let me know if you have any questions.

YIS,
Mr. Grovatt
Assistant Scoutmaster, Troop 52