

## **Notes on Advancement Process**

A scout's advancement is an individual process and the Troop provides the resources to help make it happen. Some scouts are fast starters while others jump on it later or just slowly drag it out. All have till their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday to complete all requirements for Eagle rank. While Eagle rank is a desired recognition it is far from what makes a true scout who follows the principles in their daily lives and becomes a great citizen.

Each scout is responsible for HIS advancement. It's not with a parents involvement like in cub scouts. A scout is responsible to make all contacts and coordination in this process and personally complete the requirements as stated. Parents cannot certify any of their son's progress. These procedures are part of the intent and growth learning process built into a scouts development.

A scout gets items approved and signed off by the authorized person in the troop. For ranks Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class it will normally be his patrol leader or senior scout with at least Life rank. For Star, Life and Eagle ranks it will be by an authorized adult.

A scout must prepare for any portion of his advancement by reading the assigned material and be prepared to explain all aspects or demonstrate the skill as stated. It is an individual responsibility and group work is not acceptable. If it says show, then the skill must be shown, if it says display then that is required by the scout to do as well. However, for the most part it is not a memory test but understanding the skill and ability to demonstrate when required. Work books and guide sheets are allowed for reference material during the completion of the requirement.

Advancement is worked at any time not just unit meetings. A scout cannot expect to work on advancement during troop meetings except at game time. Patrol meeting time may sometimes include passing requirements but skill demonstration, the designated activity, patrol competition times are expected to be participated in by each scout. Only during advancement specific times like merit badge help night or troop game time option are when time is carved out for scouts to work with designated helpers. Arrangements for advancement can also be made at any time and any place in coordination with YPT (youth protection training) procedures and the individual they are working with.

Scouts make appointments with the SM for completing the scout spirit and SM conference sections for each rank after all other requirements have been completed and or certified by the advancement chair. A scout should not expect to complete a SM conference on any night there is a board of review and then be eligible for a BOR the same night.

Scout service is accomplished with a troop organized activity or with an independent nonprofit group with a signed statement from the group coordinator attesting to the effort accomplished then approved by the SM and recorded with the advancement chairperson for credit.

Merit badge work with any source requires the scout to verify their accomplishment of the requirements and complete reading of the merit badge book with a troop assigned adult to validate completion and this includes when accomplished at camp or during a clinic. Work book answers are allowed to be used during the recertification of completion. It's about understanding the requirements and not a memory test.

Approval to start a specified MB with a particular counselor requires a scout to obtain a blue card signed by the SM to begin. Signing up for a summer camp merit badge satisfies this requirement. Some MB requirements state a counselor must approve the actual start and process to complete the requirement before beginning a requirement. Ensure this is accomplished to get proper credit.

Merit badge requirements are specific and must be accomplished as stated . There is no waiver for any requirement and each requirement is for an individual scout to do not just watch in a group. Rare exceptions can only be approved by the SM.

The troop has specific quantified participation requirements for the Star, Life and Eagle ranks. For the months recorded 75% of the meetings in attendance and 50% of the outings for the same designated time frame to obtain credit for the participation requirements. This is certified and tracked by the advancement chairperson.

Leadership requirements for the Star, Life and Eagle ranks requires an elected or assigned designated leadership position and completion of the designated work sheet validated and signed every two months to obtain credit. All leaders are to attend PLC meetings as part of their leadership activity and demonstrated leadership accomplishments to obtain credit. No accomplishments in any month means no credit for that month. Forms and details are available on the unit web site.

Eagle project accomplishment is a specific process outlined on the troop web site as approved by the scoutmaster following the guidance from the National, Council, District and troop resources. A scout must coordinate with the SM before beginning this process to ensure the correct procedures are being used. There is a power point outline on the unit web site that needs to be reviewed before starting as well. Properly completing this power point review will generate an acknowledgment to the advancement chair that the requirement has been accomplished.

In general credit for any requirement can only utilize a specific event one time. No activity can be utilized for multiple advancement requirements and all credit must follow within the specified eligible time frames.