



TROOP 266 SCOUT ADVANCEMENT

1/27/2000

TENDERFOOT / SECOND CLASS / FIRST CLASS: Each Scout must take the responsibility to let an adult leader know when he is ready to demonstrate a skill toward rank advancement. He will then demonstrate to the leader his ability at the skill. The adult leader will then sign and date the appropriate entry in the scout's Boy Scout Handbook indicating completion of that skill. Unlike Cub Scouts a parent cannot sign-off on advancement. The New Scout program offered by the troop beginning in March of each year will structure training and testing of these rank advancement skills as a part of weekly meetings and a monthly overnight campout.

STAR / LIFE / EAGLE: Advancement beyond First Class requires completion of merit badges. When a scout is ready to work on a merit badge he needs to get the approval of the Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster by having them sign a merit badge "blue card." He then needs to obtain the name of a registered merit badge counselor from the advancement chairperson and meet with the counselor to discuss the requirements that must be completed to the counselor's satisfaction in order to earn the merit badge. A merit badge book is available for each merit badge and is an important resource in studying for and completing any merit badge. Merit badge books may be purchased at the Boy Scout Service Center and many books are available in the troop library. Meeting with the merit badge counselor to demonstrate completion of the merit badge requirements usually takes place outside of the troop meeting. The best opportunity for earning merit badges is at the annual summer Scout Camp. Some of the merit badges required for the Eagle rank are taught in a classroom environment during troop meetings. Scouts are responsible for turning in completed merit badge cards to the Advancement Chairperson.

BOARDS OF REVIEW (BOR) are usually conducted on the first Tuesday of each month beginning at 7pm as well as during summer camp. The purpose of the board is to review the scout's completion of the requirements for each rank, review his scouting experiences, encourage the scout to progress further and approve advancement. To qualify for a BOR a scout must follow the steps below. Failure to complete any of the following in order could delay advancement.

- 1) **Requirements:** All requirements for the next rank must be completed and documented in the Boy Scout Handbook except Scout Spirit and the Scoutmaster Conference. For ranks above First Class the Asst. Scoutmaster (Patrol Advisor) signs the Handbook to indicate completion of Participation, Position of Responsibility, and Service Project.
- 2) **Worksheet:** A Rank Worksheet and a Scout Spirit Worksheet must be completed by the scout for each rank. The worksheets can be obtained from the Troop Website at www.olympiatroop266.com or from the Advancement Chairman. The Rank Worksheet is to be signed by the scout and his parent. The Patrol Advisor will verify completion of the worksheets, award and sign Scout Spirit in the Boy Scout Handbook, and sign the Rank Worksheet.
- 3) **Records:** After the scout has a Rank Worksheet signed by the Patrol Advisor he must meet with the Advancement Co-Chairpersons, Lisa Bishop or Nikki VanDermolen to verify completion of requirements as documented in the Boy Scout Handbook and to update the scout's advancement record. The Advancement Chairperson will sign the Rank Worksheet to indicate that the scout is ready for a Scoutmaster Conference.

- 4) **Scoutmaster Conference:** The conference must be completed at least two weeks prior to the Board of Review. The scout must personally contact the Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster designated for their Rank to schedule the conference. The conference is usually conducted during, immediately prior to, or after a troop meeting. The Scoutmaster will sign and date the Scoutmaster Conference requirement in the Boy Scout Handbook and will sign the Rank Worksheet to indicate that the scout is ready for a Board of Review.
- 5) **Schedule Board of Review:** The scout must request a BOR by showing the signed Rank Worksheet to the BOR chairperson, Mrs. Kandice Coleman (413-7749), at least two weeks prior to the next monthly BOR. The BOR chairperson will arrange for board members and will notify the scout of the time he is scheduled to appear before the board. Appearances before the board are scheduled at one-half hour intervals on the first Tuesday of each month beginning at 7pm.
- 6) **Appear before the Board of Review:** The scout is to wear his Class A scout uniform when appearing before the BOR and is to bring with him his Boy Scout Handbook and Rank Worksheet. Upon the successful completion of the BOR a member of the board will sign the Boy Scout Handbook and the Rank Worksheet.
- 7) **Documentation of the Board of Review Results:** Immediately following the BOR the scout must present his Boy Scout Handbook and Rank Worksheet to the Advancement Chairperson who will record the completion of the requirements and rank advancement.

PRESENTATION OF ADVANCEMENT RANK: Troop 266 immediately recognizes advancement to ranks up to Life by presenting the rank patch to the scout at a troop meeting as soon as possible after the Board of Review. The scout is recognized again formally at the next Court of Honor. Courts of Honor are generally held in January, May and September.

MERIT BADGE POLICIES: The following policies guide Troop 266 leaders and parents in counseling scouts on merit badges and in approving the completion of merit badges.

- 1) Any adult can register to be a merit badge counselor.
- 2) Any parent registered as a merit badge counselor may counsel their own son on a merit badge if the counseling is offered to a group of scouts including at least one scout who is not related to the counselor (exceptions approved in advance by the Scoutmaster and the Advancement Chairperson).
- 3) Any Troop 266 Scoutmaster or Asst. Scoutmaster may sign a merit badge card authorizing the scout to begin work on the merit badge, including the scout's parent, guardian or relative. This may be the same person that is also the merit badge counselor.
- 4) Any Troop 266 Scoutmaster or Asst. Scoutmaster familiar with the work the scout and counselor did to meet the requirements of the merit badge may sign the merit badge card indicating final completion of the merit badge except, this person may not be the same person as the merit badge counselor and may not be a parent, guardian or relative of the scout.
- 5) Merit badges completed by an out-of-council, non-BSA camp, merit badge counselor will be accepted only after the scout has a review by an in-council registered counselor.
- 6) Merit badges completed by a non-Troop 266, in-council, merit badge counselor will be accepted if the counselor is on the published council list of counselors.