



New Scout Information to Advancement



General Information

- ◆ Information can be found in the Guide to Advancements 2015. For the online version just search for Guide to Advancement from the Scouting.org website.
- ◆ The Guide to Advancements at 3.0.0.3 discusses the Unit Advancement Responsibilities. Number 7 states: Assist the unit leader in establishing practices that will provide opportunities for each new Boy Scout to achieve First Class rank within 12 to 18 months of joining, and Star rank soon thereafter studies show that if scouts are progressing steadily then they are more likely to remain in the program, and thus, we are more likely to achieve the aims and mission of Scouting.
- ◆ An assistant scoutmaster who is solely responsible for new/young scouts will assist greatly.
- ◆ Take time to explain the Scouting process to the new Scouts and their parents. Include Patrol method, Troop structure, troop leadership, advancements, outings/camping, uniforms, and dues.
- ◆ Ensure Scout games make the new scouts feel welcome, included, and take into count they are younger.
- ◆ The Troop Guide should be an older Scout who holds at least the First Class rank. He is both a leader and a mentor to the members of the new-Scout patrol providing direction, coaching, and support
- ◆ Do the Tenderfoot's physical fitness requirements as a group before, during, or after; for the first 4-5 weeks of troop meetings after a crossover of Webelos.
- ◆ Consider the first camp out to be close to home so there is more time to teach the new scouts scouting skills and troop procedures. This gives assimilation time to the scouts as well as the parents.

4 Steps in Advancements

- ◆ National says that a well-rounded and active troop program that generates advancement as a natural outcome, should take scouts to First Class within 12-18 months. Using the four steps in advancement establishes a flow that will support this outcome.
 - 1) **A scout learns** (4.2.1.1) via the EDGE (Explain, Demonstrate, Guide, and Enable) method. He learns by doing and as he learns he grows.
 - 2) **A scout is tested** (4.2.1.2) by individuals authorized by the Unit Leader (Scoutmaster) like patrol leaders, senior patrol leaders, and another scout.
 - 3) **A scout is reviewed** (4.2.1.3).. This is not a retest but determines the quality of a Scout's experience and decides whether he has fulfilled the requirements for a rank. In 8.0.01 states that Board of Reviews (BOR) should be timely so that scouts are not delayed in beginning time-oriented requirements for the next rank. They should last 15-30 minutes for non-Eagles. Also, 8.0.0.3 states there should be 3-6 BOR members who are over 20 years old and not related to the Scout.
 - 4) **A scout is recognized** (4.2.1.4) which should be done with a hand shake at the meeting/camp fire, the badge at next unit meeting and again at a Court of Honor . In 3.003 Number 3 states that a quarterly BOR is generally sufficient.

Merit Badges

- ◆ In 7.0.1.4, The Council and District Advancement Committee (DAC) are responsible for approval of all merit badge counselors **before** they provide services, the list is on the SELA website. Counselors must complete a registration form and youth protection. Contact the DAC for more information
- ◆ The 12 step recommended process of counseling is in 7.0.0.3. Earning merit badges should be hands-on and interactive, and should not be modeled after a typical school classroom setting.
- ◆ Partial merit badges have no expiration except the Scout's 18th birthday as discussed in 7.0.3.3