

THE ADVANCEMENT SCHEME

Requirement Standards

Some standard of achievement must be absolute. These are necessary for tests or skills which are related to the safety of the Scouts and others. Some standards, particularly for the older age groups, should be the qualifications of participating / cooperating agencies like the Red Cross for our First Aid and Life Saving requirements or the Fire Department for our Firemanship requirement, etc. Thus, the achievement of the boy gains recognition in a wider sense.

Some standards, however, can be flexible and should relate more to the effort expended by the boy. Generally, a boy's age should not prevent his participation or his earning a given badge. Scouting accepts individual variations in capabilities, aptitudes, and physical capacities.

The Advancement Scheme for the Boy Scout Section

1. Membership Badge

Time Frame : one month from registration date
Activities : 6
Merit Badge : None

2. Tenderfoot

Time Frame : Two months from earning the membership badge
Activities : 20
Merit Badge : None

3. Second Class

Time Frame : Three months from earning the tenderfoot rank
Activities : 18
Merit Badge : 2

4. First Class

Time Frame : Three months from earning the second class rank
Activities : 18
Merit Badge : 4

5. Outdoorsman

Time Frame : Six months from earning the First Class rank
Activities : 7
Merit Badge : 5

6. Venturer

Time Frame : Seven months from earning the Outdoorsman rank
Activities : 7
Merit Badge : 2

7. Eagle

Time Frame	: Eight months from earning the Venturer rank
Activities	: 7
Merit Badge	: 2

Summary:

Time Frame	: 2 years and six months
Activities	: 83
Merit Badge	: 15

Promoting and Administering Advancement

Although there are many ways of promoting advancement, the personal encouragement of the Troop Leader and the coordination between him and his Assistants, the Patrol Leaders, and the parents of his Scouts is by far the most effective method of achieving this end. Nothing less than a personal follow up of the progress in advancement of individual boys, done regularly, will produce the desired advancement among the boys in a Troop. Individual counseling is necessary.

The permanent display of an advancement chart, properly filled out, in a Troop Meeting Room is a positive way of encouraging advancement. When a boy sees his performance against other boys, he becomes strongly motivated to go on with his advancement so as not to be left behind.

The administration of Advancement necessitates the use of Badge Counselors and the necessary forms from the BSP for reporting advancement progress. These forms are the following:

1. Application for Advancement
2. Advancement Report
3. Merit Badge Application
4. Report of the Board of Review

The Four Steps in Advancement

There are four basic steps in Boy Scout Advancement and they apply to all six ranks.

These are:

Step 1. The Boy Learns (Preparation)

The boy learns Scouting skills by taking an active hands-on part in Troop and Patrol Meetings and the outdoor programs. This learning is the natural outcome of his regular Scouting activities as in learning how to tie a square knot or how to treat for shock and transport the injured during Patrol Meetings.

Step 2. The Boy Is Tested (Examination)

When his leaders see that he has mastered a given skill and has satisfied a given requirement, they tell him so and record his achievement. This testing is done through observation made as the boy participates in the activities and not by means

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of a threatening written test or interview. Rather, the testing is based on how the boy performed in a knot tying relay or the gadgets he was able to put up when the Troop or the Patrol went camping.

Step 3. The Boy Is Reviewed (Review)

When a Scout completes all requirements for a rank, he appears before a Board of Review composed of members of the Troop Committee. Their purpose is not to retest the boy but to make sure he has met all the requirements, to chat with him about how he feels he is getting along with the Troop and Scouting, and of course to encourage him to keep advancing.

Step 4. The Boy is Recognized (Award)

When a Scout is certified by the Board of Review, he is awarded a new badge of rank the soonest time possible in a ceremony in the next Troop Meeting. He should be recognized again in the Troops next Court of Honor.

The Merit Badge Program

Merit Badges are badges awarded to Scouts for fulfilling requirements in specific fields of interests. There are more than as hundred merit badges Scouts can earn in subject areas that include careers, sports, hobbies, and Scout skills.

These merit badges can help a Scout discover abilities he did not know he had and fields of interest he has barely heard of: everything from Citizenship in the Home to emergency preparedness to carpentry to marksmanship to poultry raising To pioneering to architecture to weather to aviation – and scores more.

Merit badges can guide a Scout toward a career, enrich his leisure life, hone his fitness, enhance his ability to help others, and stimulate his personal growth.

A Scout earns a merit badge by working with a merit badge counselor, an expert in a chosen field, who is on a list provided by the Troop. The Scout, preferably with a buddy, makes an appointment with the counselor and works on the merit badge with him during or more meetings. When the counselor approves the merit badge application, the boy submits it to his Troop Leader who then convenes a Board of Review. The badge is awarded in the next Troop Meeting and again in the Troop Court of Honor.

Any registered Scout, regardless of rank, may work on a merit badge and receive the badge the moment he earns it.