

## **BSA Troop 640 Rank Advancement (for parents)**

The BSA Handbook clearly defines the requirements that your Scout needs to accomplish to advance through the ranks. The final steps in advancing are typically the Scoutmaster Conference (required for every rank) and the Board of Review (required for every rank but the very first one, Scout). Here are the recommended guidelines that the troop suggests your Scout follows during their advancement.

When joining the troop as a new Scout, your son will have no rank yet. The first rank is Scout and that rank is relatively easy to obtain with the assistance of older Scouts in the troop. Once they accomplish all of the requirements, they need to reach out to the current Scoutmaster for a Scoutmaster Conference (the 7th and final requirement per the current BSA Handbook). Note that the requirements DO NOT need to be completed in any particular order! While it is typical for our Scouts to do their Scoutmaster Conference after finishing all other requirements, it is clearly not absolutely necessary. This same logic applies to all rank requirements - although there are some specific examples of some requirements depending on others being completed first. The book is very clear on these points.

When it is time to request a Scoutmaster Conference, the responsibility should be on the Scout (NOT the parents) to reach out to the Scoutmaster and schedule said conference. Once the conference is completed (most take place during our normal weekly meetings but can also occur on campouts, other activities, or even privately ensuring 2-deep leadership rules are followed), the Scout then needs to reach out to the current advancement chair to schedule their Board of Review. The Board of Review is an "interview" of sorts where several adults (the Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters should not attend, but instead typically contains a mix of parents and other adult leaders). The Board will interview the Scout about their advancement request, then send them off to deliberate the Scouts merits before asking him to return for their final determination of rank advancement.

At this point, the Scout should obtain the proper signature and present their book to the advancement chair (who typically attends the Board of Review but is not required to) for entry into Scoutbook and officially logging of the newly obtained rank.

At the next Court of Honor (assuming enough time exists between the Board of Review and the Court of Honor for the advancement chair to obtain the proper materials and get the new rank into the program), the Scout will be honored with their new rank. It is possible to achieve multiple ranks in a single Court of Honor but not common due to most ranks having time requirements at each level.

Once the rank is presented at the Court of Honor, the advancement chair will enter the "awarded date" into Scoutbook and the book is closed on that particular rank!

It is important to note that a Scout may work on requirements for later ranks even if they don't have the previous rank obtained. There are certain expectations as noted earlier such as the fitness logging requirements for 2nd Class and 1st Class. You must log all 30 days of the 2nd Class fitness requirements before logging the 30 days of the 1st Class requirement (but you can do them consecutively, in theory allowing you to complete these requirements in 60 days even if you are still a Tenderfoot).

As with most things in the troop, when a Scout is in doubt, have them ask their Senior Patrol Leader! If the SPL or his ASPL(s) isn't available or doesn't know the answer, they may then ask the Scoutmaster, any Assistant Scoutmaster, or the Advancement Chair for advice.