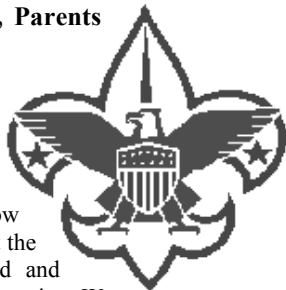


## To the New Scouts of Troop 28, Parents and Leaders:

Troop 28 is providing this guide to help scouts, their parents and leaders get a better understanding of how the Boy Scout Advancement process works. Not understanding how advancement works or confusion about the process can leave scouts disillusioned and question if they should continue with scouting. We hope that this brochure can serve you like a trusted compass, pointing you in the right direction along the scouting trail.

*Good Luck!*



## Scout Advancement

The advancement program for Boy Scouts has two phases. The first phase of Scout to First Class is designed to teach the boy Scoutcraft, how to participate in a group and to learn self-reliance. Scout is the joining rank, and is awarded when the Scout demonstrates a rudimentary knowledge of the Scouting ideals. Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class have progressively harder requirements in the areas of Scoutcraft, physical fitness, citizenship, personal growth and Scout Spirit.

The second phase of Star, Life and Eagle is designed to develop leadership skills and allow the Scout to explore potential vocations and avocations through the merit badge program. The Star and Life ranks require that the boy serve in a position of responsibility and perform community service.

## The Boy Scout Handbook

You will hear leaders repeatedly saying to scouts to take care of their handbooks. You will use this same handbook from Tenderfoot to Eagle. We suggest you get or make a good cover for your handbook, the scout store has a couple of good choices.

Unlike your school books you can write in your Scout Handbook and you should use it to record your progress as well as documenting your requirements and achievements. Within the first few pages of every rank is a list of the requirements for that rank. This front section is for you to keep track of what you have done. We recommend that in addition to checking the requirement that you also write down the date you completed a requirement and even the location or event you completed it at.

There is a section in the back of the handbook for Adult Leaders to sign off that a requirement has been successfully completed.

Books and requirements may change from year to year. Each scout should adhere to the requirements in the book he started with.

## Bring your book to every meeting!

Be prepared! This may sound familiar and it also applies to your Boy Scout Handbook. Many of our events and meetings are planned and organized around providing you with an opportunity to complete a specific requirement. If you don't have your book at that meeting, you run the risk of forgetting to get that requirement signed off.

Make sure that your name is written on the top and bottom of your book, they are always left behind at meetings.

## The Official Troop Record – The Troopmaster Computer Program.

After a leader signs off in the back of your scout book your job is still not done. You now need to record this requirement in the official troop record which is kept in a computer program called Troopmaster. Two leaders are the keepers of the official troop record Mr. Icaza and Mr. Sanders. If the information does not make it from your handbook to the troop computer, you will not have officially completed the requirement.

Once the troop computer is updated and indicates that you have completed all of the requirements for a specific rank you will be scheduled for a Scoutmaster Conference and a Board of Review.

## Scoutmaster Conference

The Scoutmaster Conference is an opportunity for you and the Mr. Sabia to sit down for a few moments and discuss how you are progressing in the scout program and generally just to get to know each other. The scoutmaster may ask you questions outside of scouting such as “How are things going at school?” Your answer will usually be followed up by a reminder from the scoutmaster that school always comes first. So having uncompleted homework on a Wednesday night is always an understandable reason for missing a troop meeting.

## Board of Review

A Board of Review, like the Scoutmaster Conference, is always part of the last requirements for each rank. You will meet with two or three members of the Troop Committee. They will talk with you about your scout experience and will usually have a few questions about the requirements that you completed for the rank you have been working on.

## Working on multiple ranks at the same time.

Unlike the Cub Scout Program, in Boy Scouting you can work on requirements for any of the six ranks at any time. For example, you may have your Tenderfoot badge and you complete your BSA swimmer test at summer camp, a First Class requirement. Even though you have not earned your Second Class rank you still can complete this or any other First Class requirements.



## Scout Badge

This is where it all starts for new Boy Scouts. The Scout Badge is awarded after a boy joins the Troop and completes the joining requirements, they are listed in the front of the Boy Scout handbook and they include completing a scout application, demonstrating the scout sign, salute and handshake and understanding and agreeing to live by the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Motto and Slogan. Information on each of these items can be found in your Boy Scout Handbook. After you complete your Scout Badge requirements, it's time to start working on the first three scout ranks. They are:



## Tenderfoot



## Second Class



## First Class

## Some Helpful Hints:

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### **Read the requirements.**

Spend a few minutes and read the requirements. Many scouts only read the requirements for the current rank they are working on and they overlook requirements that they may complete for other ranks. Know what the requirement is asking you to do. If you are not sure, ask another scout, your Patrol Leader, your Senior Patrol Leader or an adult leader.

### **Recognize the Verb.**

Requirements are loaded with verbs like plan, make, discuss, prepare, or demonstrate, to name a few. Each of these means something very different and can drastically change what the requirement is asking you to do. If a requirement asks you to IDENTIFY local poisonous plants, please do not COLLECT any poison ivy plants.

### **Get a parent involved but remember who does the work.**

It can be very helpful to have a parent or other adult get involved with your rank advancement and we encourage parents to join the troop as an adult leader or committee member or any one of dozens of positions that can support troop functions.

However, it is the responsibility of the scout to complete the advancement requirements. Scout leaders will usually go through some rather strange facial expressions when a parent approaches them asking to have a requirement signed off.

### **Plan and organize your time.**

Most scouts are very busy young men who are involved in a number of other activities and organizations such as sports, clubs, religious organizations and most importantly school.

Good planning can make a big difference about the pace that your advancement moves along. Advancement is not a race. You may not be at the same rank as other scouts your age. If you are concerned, ask an adult leader to take a look at what you need to do to get where you would like to be.

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## Some Helpful Hints:

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### **You will need to attend events outside of Troop Meetings.**

Very often all a scout will need to complete a rank is one requirement. That one requirement may be to attend a campout or complete a swim test or run a ¼ mile. All things that are very difficult to do at a Troop Meeting.

The troop prints out a schedule of events usually twice a year. We recommend that when you get the schedule that you sit down with your parents to plan out which events you would like to attend and what events you need to attend to complete your rank advancement requirements.

Ask an adult leader if you don't have a copy of the Troop Schedule and look and listen for announcements about the individual events.

Also remember that just because you went on a campout doesn't mean that you completed the requirement. Read and review your requirements before the trip. Know what you need to do and possibly bring to complete the requirement.

### **Summer Camp**

Boy Scout Summer Camp is a great place to complete rank advancement. Scouts can complete a number of rank advancement requirements as well as earn a few merit badges during a week at summer camp.

### **Let us know**

If you would like to work on a specific requirement at a troop meeting, ask an adult leader if it can be worked into the schedule.

### **Need some help?**

Troop 28 has plenty of scouts and adult leaders that are more than able and willing to help. It all starts with a courteous "Can I have some help?"

For More Information: Look in your scout book or contact your Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol Leader or the appropriate Adult leader.



# **Troop 28 Guide to Advancement for Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class Ranks**

for  
Boy Scouts,  
Parents and Leaders

Boy Scouts of America