

Boy Scouts of America
Great Smoky Mountain Council
Tuckaleechee District
Troop 81

Most Frequently Asked Questions About...

RANK ADVANCEMENT

1. Where can I find the specific requirements for rank advancements?
A: The Boy Scout Handbook, pages 14-16 and 594-597.
2. Are Patrol Leaders or other youth leaders allowed to sign off specific requirements?
A: No. Only Scoutmasters are allowed to sign the official record.
3. Who's responsible for insuring that requirements are signed off when they have been completed?
A: The individual Scout is responsible to have his book signed by his Scoutmaster when he feels he has completed a specific requirement.
4. Where is the official advancement record for my son?
A: The official record is your son's Scout Handbook. Scoutmasters also keep a duplicate record.
5. My son lost his Scout Handbook. Will he have to start over on his next rank requirement?
A: No. His Scoutmaster keeps a duplicate record of his advancement record. Obtain a replacement Handbook and request the Scoutmaster to update the official record.
6. A recent Board of Review passed my son for his next rank. Will he have to wait for the next Court of Honor to receive his badge?
A: No. All earned rank advancements and merit badges will be *awarded* to Scouts at the next troop meeting. The Court of Honor will *recognize* those Scouts who have earned badges and rank.
7. My son has just been presented a rank advancement. When can he display his new rank on his uniform?
A: Immediately. In fact, he'll be considered out of uniform if he doesn't have his current rank on his uniform.
8. Is it acceptable to display current rank in a plastic pocket flap pouch or attach the badge to the uniform shirt with velcro?
A: No. Badges of rank are to be sewn on the left breast pocket of the uniform shirt.
9. What should my son do with the card that accompanied his rank advancement?
A: Save this card for historical reasons. An Eagle rank application requires dates of completion for all rank advancements.
10. Can my son work on a rank requirement that's beyond his next rank?
A: Yes. Specific requirements can be satisfied for any rank at any time. However, each rank must be *awarded* consecutively.

11. My son was enrolled in the "Dan Beard" program at summer camp. Will his participation fulfill some rank requirements even though his book wasn't signed off?
A: Yes. Your son's Scoutmaster will have his record from summer camp and will sign his book for completed items. Please note that in some areas, we consider his Dan Beard experience to be an introduction rather than a *completion* of particular skills and will later reinforce the skills with additional lessons.
12. My son has a physical disability. How can he satisfy requirements that's beyond his limitation?
A: Certain requirements can be waived by the authority of the Troop Committee.
13. How does my son receive an appointment to a Board of Review?
A: His Scoutmaster will make your son's appointment for the ranks of Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class only. For Star and Life ranks, it's the responsibility of the Scout to make his own appointment by contacting the troop's Advancement Chairman. The Eagle Board of Review is a special event and is arranged and conducted by the Tuckaleechee District.
14. Does my son need a full Scout uniform for rank advancement?
A: We encourage all scouts in Troop 81 to have a full uniform. We insist that all senior Scouts (STAFF and patrol leaders) have full uniforms to set the proper example.
15. My son needs a leadership position for his next rank. Since patrol leaders are an elected position, how can this be fair?
A: The position of Patrol Leader is just one of many available to satisfy this requirement. Most of these positions are appointed, and not elected positions. If your son needs a leadership position, have him notify his Scoutmaster.
16. My son is an assistant patrol leader (APL). Why can't he get leadership credit for that position?
A: The APL position is a patrol job and not a troop leadership job. The requirement demands that the scout demonstrate leadership to help the troop.
17. My son is on a Leave of Absence (LOA) to play soccer. Will he get credit for the outings he has missed?
A: No. LOA's will not substitute for your son's participation. However, the missed outings will not be charged against him for the purpose of satisfying the requirement for being active.
18. Can my son attend outings while on a Leave of Absence?
A: No. In order to participate in outdoor outings, Scouts must attend troop and patrol meetings.
19. Where can a Leave of Absence application be obtained?
A: The troop's Scribe has all blank forms.
20. Do the boys fill out their own Service Hours Validation form?
A: No. This form is to be filled out and signed by the person from whom your son performed the service. He is to safeguard this document until his Board of Review. At that time he'll turn in the form to receive credit for service hours.

21. What happens if my son loses his completed Service Hours Validation form? Can he still get credit if I explain what happened to his Scoutmaster?
A: One of the many aims of Scouting is to teach personal responsibility. The service hours validation process is one such program. Only under infrequent exceptions will service hours be credited without a completed validation form.
22. My son had accumulated a total of eight service hours but the review board only allowed five hours. Why?
A: Only the service hours earned since your son's last rank advancement are allowed. Service hours earned at lower ranks can't be forwarded and credited toward future ranks.
23. Where can my son get a blank Service Hour Validation form?
A: The troop's Scribe has all blank forms.
24. What is the troop's requirement for being active?
A: The youth leadership of Troop 81 set the minimum at 60 percent in order to satisfy this requirement. Your son must have participated in six of the last ten outings to be considered "Active." EXCEPTION: Missed outings are not counted if your son is on a Leave of Absence.
25. Who keeps track of my son's participation in outings?
A: Your son should keep his own participation record. However, the official record is compiled from scouts' signatures from each outing's participation roster.
26. What determines if the Scout Spirit requirement has been successfully completed for each rank advancement?
A: Since there are no specific published directions for this requirement, it's a judgement call by the Scoutmaster using the Scout Oath and Laws as a basic guideline.
27. I can't afford to send my son on the expensive bus trips... will this be counted against him?
A: No. These "high ticket" trips are considered special events and will not be counted against any boy who can't make the trip.
28. Does a week at summer camp only count as one trip?
A: Yes.
29. Can parents be present during their son's Board of Review?
A: Yes. Parents are encouraged to attend these events as silent observers.
30. Is there an age cut-off for earning rank advancements?
A: Yes. All rank must be earned before the scout's eighteenth birthday.