

Troop 39 Advancement Expectations

Presented by Scoutmaster Mike Steinbrecher at 1/19/16 troop meeting with 1/25/16 follow-up email technical rev. 5/22/18

The vision of the Boy Scouts of America is: The Boy Scouts of America will prepare every eligible youth in America to become a responsible, participating citizen and leader who is guided by the Scout Oath and Law.

I view the Boy Scouts of America as an opportunity to have fun learning life lessons, developing and using leadership, and to help young men develop into extraordinary citizens. The Ranks show progress along this trail. Whether or not you achieve a certain rank does not mean that you are not getting everything out of the program, it could be that you are not focused on this one aspect of scouting. Please notice that the vision does not mention anything about obtaining or moving up to a certain rank.

If every scout that comes through our troop leaves us with a good grasp of these items, then we will have done our jobs. How many Eagle Scouts we have does not define our success, or the success of the scouts going through the program. If I have an 18 year old First Class scout that moves on to be an upstanding citizen, by living by the Scout Oath and Promise, then I feel we have succeeded in our quest.

To reiterate, for those that were at the meeting, and to put in writing for those that were not at the meeting, I would like to review the conversation we had in regards to the troop expectations.

For ranks of Scout, Tenderfoot & Second Class this applies:

The troop expects that each year we would cover the requirements for up to the First Class rank. Most of the requirements are the basics of scout skills. When these requirements are gone over in the meeting, it is the scout's responsibility to review and then meet with an Assistant Scoutmaster, Scoutmaster, or a scout that has a rank that is Life or above to get it signed off. Just because something is covered in the meeting does not mean that you are ready to have it signed off.

Scouts are welcome to ask for a meeting to have items signed off. This should be scheduled prior to or after a regular meeting and almost always you will find an Assistant or the Scoutmaster to meet with you.

You are welcome to talk with your Patrol Leader about doing a requirement on a weekend or another night of the week. Your Patrol Leader should then talk with the Senior Patrol Leader who will then make an attempt to schedule the event to allow for the signoff. If you feel you are not being heard, then you should talk with a Scoutmaster about what steps you took to make it happen and then the Scoutmaster will intervene if necessary.

Camp-outs are a perfect time to get these items signed off.

The scoutmasters or older scouts may ask to see your book in an attempt to help you get things signed off, but do not count on this to happen... ***MAKE IT HAPPEN FOR YOURSELF.***

Once the scout has achieved the rank of First Class:

Each scout should, at this point have their own email address and add it to the Troop's distribution list. It is your responsibility to communicate with adults or the SPL using this email account, a phone, or a text message. It is **not** ok for a leader or the SPL to get an email from a parent's account that is signed by the scout. We will assume that the parent is pushing the scout and that the request is not coming from the scout. **THIS IS ALL ON THE SCOUT.**

These upper ranks basically are to show leadership, perseverance, Scout Spirit, and the desire to complete your requirements. An Assistant/ Scoutmaster, or a member of the Troop Committee may ask how it is going, but we will not go out of our way to make sure you are progressing... this is up to the scout. If we see too much parent activity for these upper ranks, we will correct the parent in an effort to stop them from "doing it for the scout."

If the scout makes it to a point that they are working on their Eagle Rank, it is our goal that they are proficient, and have the confidence in communicating with others (fellow scouts, leaders and other adults) by either phone, e-mail, in person, or by text.

Please feel free to contact the Scoutmaster, any assistant Scoutmaster, or any Committee member to discuss the items included in this write-up if there are questions or concerns.