

# Advancement

The advancement method is the cornerstone of the Scouting program. There are three basic areas of advancement:

## Rank Advancement

There are seven levels of rank in Boy Scouting, each with its own unique requirements. These are Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class (basic skill development), Star, Life (advanced skill and leadership development) and the highest rank, Eagle. When a Webelos Scout crosses over to Scouts BSA, they must demonstrate basic knowledge of the Scout Law, Oath, etc. The requirements for each rank can be found in the current Boy Scout Handbook, or <https://scoutbook.scouting.org/>. As requirements are met, they are approved and signed off by the Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmasters. Parents are not allowed to sign off rank requirements for their son. It is the Scout's responsibility to understand and meet all the requirements for each rank. It is also the Scout's responsibility to have the completion of each requirement recorded both in his handbook and by the Advancement chairperson in scoutbook. If a parent or Scout is in doubt about what has been recorded they should consult the scoutbook web site.

For all positions of responsibility, including Patrol Leader, the Scout must attend 60% of all meetings and campouts to receive credit for that position. If he is unable to attend, he must have someone who is prepared and capable of covering his responsibilities. This does not include last minute phone calls (Oct. 6, 1998 Committee meeting)

## Merit Badge Advancement

There are over 120 merit badges a Scout can earn. Of these, 21 are required for the Eagle rank. Merit badges are part of the rank requirements for Star and Life ranks as well. Parents can help by filling out the [Troop Resource Survey](#) and indicating which skill areas they may be able to counsel. If a parent, guardian, or other adult, is interested in becoming a Merit Badge Counselor, they must complete a BSA adult application, Youth Protection Training, and a Merit Badge Counselor registration form. All of these must be turned in to the Troop, and approved by Northern Star Council before they can counsel the Merit Badge.

Before a Scout can begin to work on a Merit Badge, he must receive a signed Merit Badge card (blue card) from the Scoutmaster, or an Assistant Scoutmaster. The Scoutmaster, or Assistant will make sure the Scout is going to an approved Counselor, has a Two Deep plan, and is not working on too many Merit Badges at the same time. It is preferred that two or more Scouts work on the same Merit Badge together. If this is not possible, a parent or guardian must be present for all counseling sessions. At no time should an individual Scout and Counselor meet one to one.

The Merit Badge is awarded at the next Troop Court of Honor. The Applicant portion of the Merit Badge application, signed by the counselor, should be saved. It can prove to be extremely valuable when completing the Eagle application.

For more information about Merit Badges check out this page on the BSA web site: [http://www.scoutingnewsroom.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/210-050\\_WB.pdf](http://www.scoutingnewsroom.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/210-050_WB.pdf)

## **Special Recognition**

There are other types of advancement available to Scouts, including earning the religious emblem of their faith, demonstrating a Scout's commitment to "Duty to God". More information on religious emblems can be found:

On the BSA National Web site: <https://www.scouting.org/awards/religious-awards/>

Other special recognitions include Den Chief Award, 50 Miler, Order of the Arrow, Lifeguard BSA, Mile Swim, etc.

In order to promote advancement and attendance, Troop 113 created the Rothschild Award many years ago. More information on this award can be found here:

<https://bayporttroop113.org/faq/Harold%20Rothschild%20Memorial%20Award.pdf>

In order to recognize truly outstanding all around scouting achievement Troop 113 create the Dr. E.V. Strand Award in 1948. More information can be found here:

<https://bayporttroop113.org/faq/Dr%20E%20V%20Strand%20Award.pdf>

Another method of promoting advancement, attendance and wearing your uniform is the Troop 113 "Scout Bucks" program. A Scout can use his bucks to bid at twice yearly auctions. More information on Scout Bucks can be found here:

<https://bayporttroop113.org/faq/Scout%20Bucks.pdf>