

ScoutParent Guide to Advancement

Trustworthy

Loyal

Helpful

Friendly

Courteous

Kind

Obedient

Cheerful

Thrifty

Brave

Clean

Reverent



Troop 101 Marshfield

Chartered Organization
Sanctuary Church
Marshfield MA

SCOUTPARENT GUIDE TO ADVANCEMENT

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Troop 101 Marshfield

The mission of the Boy Scouts of America is to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Scout Law.

PROGRAMS OF THE BSA

At all levels, Scouting helps youth achieve the aims of strengthening character, physical and mental fitness, and good citizenship.



Cub Scouting is a year round family program designed for boys and girls who are 6 through 11 years old. Parent, leaders, and organizations work together to help Scouts learn and have fun.



Boy Scouting is a year round program for boys ages 11 through 17. Through the Boy Scouting program, young men can achieve Scouting's aims through methods that include the ideals of the Scout Oath and Scout Law, patrols, outdoor adventures, advancement, association with adults, personal growth, leadership development, and the uniform.



Varsity Scouting is a program for young men who are at least 14 years old but yet 18. They work toward the same ranks and merit badges as Boy Scouts, but they also participate in high-adventure activities and sports.



Venturing is for young men and women who are 13.5 through 20 years of age. Venturing's purpose is to prepare young people to become responsible caring adults.

"The fact that a boy is an Eagle Scout has always carried with it a special significance, not only in Scouting but also as he enters higher education, business or industry, and community service. The award is a performance-based achievement whose standards have been well-maintained over the years. Not every boy who joins a Boy Scout troop earns the Eagle Scout rank; only about 5 percent of all Boy Scouts do so."
-www.nesa.org



Cub Scouts

- Come in as a boy, leave as a boy
- Family program
- Adults run the program in detail
- Parent Role: Participate in the program



Boy Scouts

- Come in as a boy, leave as a young man
- Youth oriented program
- Scouts run the program for the scouts, adults mentor and teach
- Parent Role: Stay informed and be supportive

Low Chaos Meter High

Chaos is healthy. The Scouts need to have opportunities to make mistakes, one role of the adult mentoring is to prevent these mistakes from becoming catastrophes.

Monthly Calendar

District Round Table (DRT)

1st Wed after first Tues in month

Troop Committee Mtg (TCM)

1st Thur following DRT

Patrol Leaders' Council (PLC)

1st Mon or Tues following TCM

Troop Meeting/Patrol Meeting

Every Wed, Sept to June

Scouting Outing

Once a month

Community Service

Once a month

OA Meeting

Once a month at DRT

SCOUTPARENT GUIDE TO ADVANCEMENT

YOUR ROLE AS A SCOUTPARENT: STAY INFORMED

A ScoutParent is a parent or adult mentor of a Scout who enthusiastically participates with their Scout and also helps other volunteers to provide the best quality program experience to all youth in every unit. Most young Scouts have a hard time keeping track of all the events going on.

How Parents can help the Troop:

- Attend the beginning and end of Troop meetings when announcements are made
- Review the seasonal calendars and visit the Troop website on a regular basis, www.troop101marshfield.org
- Join the Troop Committee
- Become Scoutmaster or Ass't Scoutmaster

- Attend outings and events
- Advise the Troop committee of your skills and volunteer when needed
- Read the Introduction and Rank Requirements sections of *The Boy Scout Handbook*
- Become a Merit Badge Counselor
- Enroll in Scoutbook to view advancement online

Support your son in his position of responsibility. Your son will, at times, have specific responsibilities to the Troop and his patrol. He may be a Patrol Leader or hold some other leadership position. He may also have an assignment for a trip. As a parent, be aware and encourage.



82% of Eagle Scouts had a ScoutParent that was actively involved in Scouting.

IDEALS

The ideals of Scouting are spelled out in the Scout Oath, Law, motto, and slogan. The Scout measures himself against these ideals and continually tries to improve.

*On my honor I will do my best
To do my duty to God and my country
and to obey the Scout Law;
To help other people at all times;
To keep myself physically strong,
mentally awake, and morally straight.*

Be Prepared

PATROLS

The patrol method gives Scouts an experience in group living and participating citizenship. It places a certain amount of responsibility on young shoulders and teaches boys how to accept it. A patrol of 6 to 8 Scouts is the right size for many activities.

Do a good turn daily



EMPOWERING BOYS TO BE LEADERS

Scouts learn by doing, and what they do is lead their patrols and their troop. The boys themselves develop the troop's program, then take responsibility for figuring out how they will achieve their goals. A key principle of the scouting program is the emphasis on boy leadership. Scouts establish Patrols and elect their Patrol Leader. The Patrol Leaders are elected by the membership at the first Troop Meeting of the year. The Senior Patrol Leader is the scout who is responsible for planning and conducting the troop activities. After being elected to one of these positions, the Patrol Leaders and Senior Patrol Leader choose an assistants to help him. Several other older scouts in staff positions as-

sist them, and together they provide most of the planning, organization and leadership of the troop.

Patrol Leaders' Council (PLC)

The patrol leaders will meet with the senior patrol leader and his assistants at a patrols leaders' council to plan the troop's programs and activities. The patrol leader will represent the wishes of the patrol as decisions are being made. High on the list of things discussed at patrol leaders' council meetings are upcoming adventures — that often means going camping.

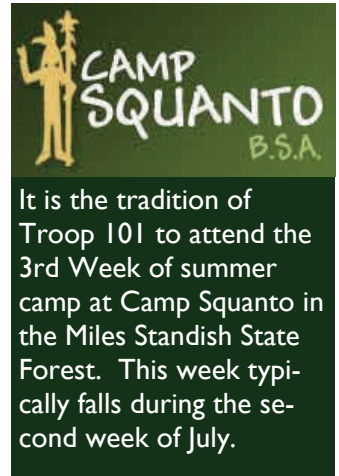
OUTDOORS: SCOUTING

Boy Scouts is designed to take place outdoors. It is in the outdoors that Scouts share responsibilities and learn to live with each other. It is here that the skills and activities practiced at troop meetings come alive with purpose.

Each month starting in September until June the troop runs a monthly outing. It is highly recommended that Scouts attend each outing and work on the outdoor skills required for advancement.

In most instances, patrols are responsible for their menu planning, food shopping, meal preparation and clean-up during these outings. The troop provides each patrol with a cooler and a

chuck box which contains all of the gear required to prepare the patrol meals. The troop also provides gear for the general camping area, such as, canopies, tarps and lanterns. Personal and patrol gear is the responsibility of the individuals and their patrols. During all outings we observe the "Buddy System", which means two boys share a tent. Only when we have an odd count, will we allow three boys to share a tent. Prior to each outing the Scout should know his tenting buddy, who is bringing the tent and the food he is responsible for contributing to the menu.



Camping in Winter & Summer: Surviving Fun



GEAR

General gear requirements are listed in the Camping section of *The Boy Scout Handbook*. Troop leadership checks equipment when safety is involved, such as for winter campouts, backpacking trips, etc. Please be sure all equipment is safe and appropriate to the outing, i.e. lighters, knives, ect. Items that do not conform to the *Guide to Safety Scouting* will be confiscated and returned at the end of the outing. Boy Scouts are encouraged to pack light.

TRAINING

The Troop leadership may place training or advancement requirements as a prerequisite for deciding which Scouts may attend an activity. Getting the required training is usually part of advancing through the ranks.

SCOUT SPIRIT

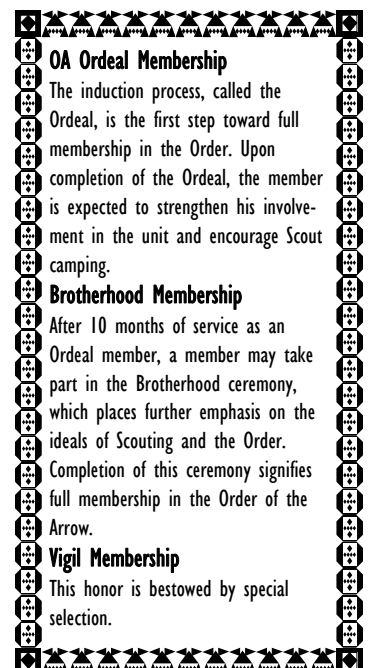
Showing good Scout Spirit will make an outdoor experience fun and exciting for everyone!



ORDER OF THE ARROW (OA)

The OA recognizes Scouts and Scouters who best exemplify the Scout Oath and Law in their daily lives. Members are elected by the youth members of the troop during summer camp. To be eligible the youth must hold the rank of 1st Class or higher and have 15 days and nights of scout camping during the 2 year period prior to the election. The days of camping must include one long-term camp consisting of 6 consecutive days and 5 nights of resident camping.

Provisional summer camp, also known as provo, gives a Scout the opportunity to attend a week of BSA summer camp without his entire troop. If a Scout attends multiple weeks at Camp Squanto they receive a discount on the rate of subsequent weeks.



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ADVANCEMENT



Scout

Scouting provides a series of surmountable obstacles and steps to overcome them through the advancement method. The Scout plans his advancement and progresses at his own pace as he overcomes each challenge. The Scout is rewarded for each achievement, which helps him gain self-confidence. The steps in the advancement system help a boy grow in self-reliance and the ability to help others.



Tenderfoot



Second Class



First Class



Star



Life



Eagle

(Star, Life, Eagle) are earned by completion of merit badges, service efforts, and leadership.

The Troop Guide and new-Scout Patrol Assistant Scoutmaster play an active role in helping your Scout earn the early ranks of

Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class. Planned activities at outings and during Troop Meetings help him attain these ranks. Older Scouts or adults teach a younger Scout about the requirements using Scouting's teaching EDGE (see below). The next step is to test, where the Scout demonstrates his ability to successfully complete the requirement. The Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, Senior Patrol Leader, Troop Guide or Instructor will test and sign off on Scout advancements.

After the requirements for a rank are attained, the Scout asks the Scoutmaster for a Scoutmaster Conference. After a successful Scoutmaster Conference the Scout asks the Advancement Coordinator for a Board of Review (BOR). After a successful Board of Review, the Scout has earned the rank. All advancement awards are presented to the Scouts at the next Court of Honor (COH). COHs are special meetings where the Scouts are recognized for their achievements. It is very important for Scouts and parents to attend these as a sign of respect for the Scouts' hard work. For this reason, Class A uniforms are mandatory. Courts of Honor are held two times a year.

Once First Class rank is earned, a Scout changes from being a 'learner' to a 'leader' and is expected to teach new Scouts. The ranks of Star, Life, and Eagle require a Scout to be more self-motivated to earn merit badges, participate in service projects and show leadership skills.



Explain how it is done



Demonstrate the steps.



Guide learners as they practice.



Enable them to succeed on their own.

SCOUTPARENT ROLE IN ADVANCEMENT

The first role a ScoutParent can play is to encourage their sons to advance at their own rate in the scouting program. Every boy requires motivation from time to time. Remember, Scouting unlike school does not require a boy to advance. Scouts usually enjoy the program better if you let them advance at their own rate. Do offer to expose them to helpful resources that can help them to reach their own goals. The second role a parent can play is to help with advancement by teaching a skill or checking the boys' understanding of the scout skill so the boy will receive credit for knowing the Scout skill in question. The third role a parent can play is to help with advancement by applying to be a Merit Badge Counselor.

MERIT BADGES (MB)

A Scout may elect to independently pursue merit badges, or to take advantage of opportunities announced for group classes. Group classes are taught at troop meetings, summer camp and Merit Badge University in the Spring. Merit badges will often have rank and age requirements based on the subject matter. It is highly recommended that Scouts below the rank of First Class focus on rank requirements over merit badges during troop meetings. Be advised attendance is not sufficient to attain a merit badge. There is often individual work involved. Prior to beginning work on a merit badge the Scouts must obtain the Scoutmasters signature on the "Blue Card". The Blue Card is the of-

ten-irreplaceable proof of accomplishment required for receiving the badge. A Scout may not work on a badge alone with a counselor, but must find a buddy. A parent cannot sign his/her son's Blue Card unless part of a group. A "partial" is the term used to refer to an in process merit badge. The remaining requirements to complete a "partial" may only be signed off by an approved merit badge counselor for that subject. There is no time limit to complete a partial merit badge. The Scoutmaster has the list of all the Council approved Merit Badge Counselors.

ADULT ASSOCIATION

Boys learn from the example set by their adult leaders. Troop leadership may be male or female, and association with adults of high character is encouraged at this stage of a young man's development.



MERIT BADGE COUNSELORS

The merit badge counselor is a key player in the Boy Scout advancement program. Whatever your area of expertise or interest, as merit badge counselor, you can play a vital role in stirring a young man's curiosity about that particular topic. By serving as a merit badge counselor, you offer your time, knowledge, and other resources so that Scouts can explore a topic of interest. If you are interested, it is easy to become a volunteer. The Advancement Coordinator can provide you with the necessary paperwork.

*The troop
organizes
community service
projects on a
regular basis*

PERSONAL GROWTH

As Scouts plan their activities and progress toward their goals, they experience personal growth. The Good Turn concept is a major part of the personal growth method of Scouting. Boys grow as they participate in community service projects and do Good Turns for others. The religious emblems program is also a large part of the personal growth method.

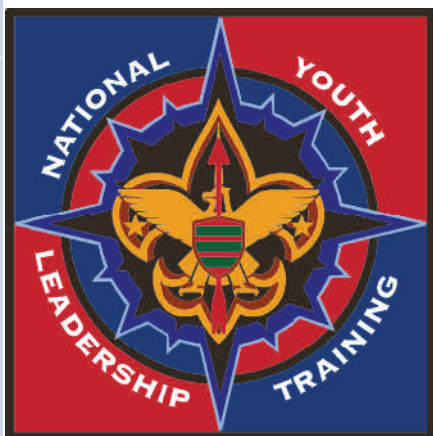


RELIGIOUS EMBLEMS PROGRAMS

To encourage members to grow stronger in their faith, over 35 religious groups have developed religious emblems programs. The Boy Scouts of America has approved of these programs and allows the emblems to be worn on the official uniform. The various religious groups administer the programs. Check with your local council service center or contact the religious organization directly to obtain the curriculum booklets.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Boy Scouting encourages boys to learn and practice leadership skills. Every Scout has the opportunity to participate in both shared leadership and total leadership situations. Understanding the concepts of leadership helps a boy accept the leadership roles of others and guides him toward the citizenship aim of Scouting.



NATIONAL YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING (NYLT)

The NYLT course centers around the concepts of what a leader must BE, what he must KNOW, and what he must DO. The key elements are then taught with a clear focus on HOW TO. The skills come alive during the week as the patrol goes on a Quest for the Meaning of Leadership. Scouts 14 years or older and 1st Class or higher have the opportunity to attend this six-day course during the summer. NYLT is often a life changing experience!

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UNIFORM

The uniform makes the Scout troop visible as a force for good and creates a positive youth image in the community. Wearing the uniform is an action that shows each Scout's commitment to the aims and purposes of Scouting. The uniform gives the Scout identity in a world brotherhood of youth who believe in the same ideals.

Uniform Inspection

General Appearance: Good posture, clean face & hands, combed hair, neatly dressed, clean fingernails

Headgear: All troop members must wear the headgear chosen by vote of the troop/team

Shirt and Neckwear: Official shirt or official long- or short-sleeve uniform shirt with green or blaze orange shoulder loops on epaulets. The troop/team may vote to wear a neckerchief, bolo tie, or no neckwear. In any case, the collar should be unbuttoned. The troop/team has the choice of wearing the neckerchief over the turned-under collar or under the open collar.

Pants/Shorts: Official pants or official uniform pants or shorts; no cuffs. (Units have no option to change.)

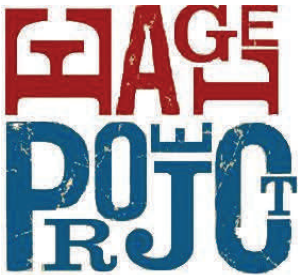
Belt: Official Boy Scout web with BSA insignia on buckle; or official leather with international style buckle or buckle of your choice, worn only if voted by the troop/team. Members wear one of the belts chosen by vote of the troop/team.

Socks: Official socks with official shorts or pants

Shoes: Leather or canvas, neat and clean

Insignia: Correct placement

EAGLE SCOUT LEADERSHIP SERVICE PROJECT



For the Eagle service project, a boy must plan, develop, and give leadership to others in a service project for any religious institution, school, or his community while he is a Life Scout. The Eagle service project provides the opportunity for the Eagle Scout candidate to demonstrate the leadership skills he has learned in Scouting. He does the project outside the sphere of Scouting. Before any Eagle service project is begun, it must be approved by the district or council advancement coordinator and the recipient of the

project.

The *Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook (512-927)* must be used in meeting this requirement. The Troop's Eagle Advisor is available for mentoring. Eagle service projects must be completed prior to the Scout's eighteenth birthday. The workbook is available for download at www.scouting.org

The Eagle Board of Review is done at the district level.

EAGLE PALMS

After becoming an Eagle Scout, a Scout may earn Palms by completing the following requirements up until his 18th birthday:

- Be active in your troop and patrol for at least three months after becoming an Eagle Scout or after award of last Palm.
- Demonstrate Scout spirit by living the Scout Oath (Promise) and Scout Law in your everyday life.
- Make a satisfactory effort to develop and demonstrate leadership ability.
- Earn five additional merit badges beyond those required for Eagle or last Palm. (Merit badges earned any time since becoming a Boy Scout may be used to meet this requirement.)
- Take part in a Scoutmaster conference.
- Complete a board of review.

You may wear only the proper combination of Palms for the number of merit badges you earned beyond the rank of Eagle. The Bronze Palm represents five merit badges, the Gold Palm 10, and the Silver Palm 15



RECORD-KEEPING

A Scout's advancement records are kept in three places — the Council office, the troop Advancement Coordinator, and with the Scout. The Council office keeps records supplied to them by the troop Advancement Coordinator, who also keeps copies of these records for the troop.

Scouts receive three kinds of documents that they need to keep in a safe place until after they turn 18 (or receive their Eagle Scout Award, whichever is later)!

These documents are:

1. Scout Handbook with requirements signed off
2. Portion of completed blue merit badge cards
3. The wallet-sized certificate cards for rank advancement and merit badge completion

The Scout should ensure that all of these are signed or initialed by the appropriate Scout leader. All of the cards are the same size and can be safely kept in plastic protector pages

which are designed for trading cards.

**IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT YOU
KEEP THESE DOCUMENTS IN A
SAFE PLACE AND DO NOT LOSE
THEM!!!**

If it should happen that there is a discrepancy or missing records, your personal records are your most important ally in proving what you completed and when.

It is the Scout's responsibility to report completed requirements to the Advancement Coordinator and to retain the original documentation for any partially completed merit badges.

If your Scout feels there is a discrepancy between the troop advancement records and their own he should present his hard copy documented proof to the Advancement Coordinator. The ScoutParent should not intervene, as this is an important part of the personal growth process.

www.meritbadge.org

This website houses some useful work-sheets for completing merit badges. Please note that this site should be used as a supplement, not a replacement, to the official merit badge pamphlet.

"No council, district, unit, or individual has the authority to add to or subtract from any advancement requirement. A Boy Scout badge recognizes what a young man is able to do; it is not a reward for what he has done."

"Educators and counselors agree that the best way to build confidence is through measurement. Self confidence is developed by measuring up to a challenge or a standard. Peer confidence develops when the same measuring system is used for everyone -- when all must meet the same challenge to receive equal recognition. Confidence in leaders comes about when there is consistency in measuring -- when leaders use a single standard of fairness."

- Quoted from: Advancement Policies #33088



“one of my deepest regrets”, is the phrase most often heard when a man that did not earn his rank of Eagle reminisces about Scouting as a youth...“I really wish I would have completed that rank.”

SOURCES

This guide was originally developed by Shannon Freise in 2012 using these BSA sources, and updated in 9/2018.

The Boy Scout Handbook, 13th Edition

Troop Committee Guidebook, 2007 Printing

The Scoutmaster Handbook, 2008 Printing

Guide to Advancement, 2011 Printing

The official Boy Scout website: www.scouting.org

The official Eagle Scout website: www.nesa.org

The official online handbook: www.bsahandbook.org

The official Order of the Arrow website: www.oa-bsa.org