

## A SCOUTS QUICK GUIDE TO RANK ADVANCEMENT & MERIT BADGE RECOGNITION

TROOP WEBSITE – [www.troop198bsa.com](http://www.troop198bsa.com)

FACEBOOK PAGE – BSA Troop 198 Etters (secure page)

**\*\*\*\*It is the scouts responsibility to prepare himself for the requirements of rank advancement and merit badge recognition\*\*\*\***

For specific information on Rank Advancement and Merit Badge completion and Recognition please refer to the Troop Handbook located on the Troop website.

**Items suggested for record keeping – 3 ring binder, sports card type pages to place merit badge cards and rank advancement cards, activity log and service hour log printed from troop website, paper, writing instrument, scout handbook**

### Rank Advancement (Scout Rank to Life)

- Complete all requirements for rank advancement as outlined in the Boy Scout Handbook (current edition as applicable)
- Have completed requirements signed off by a scout of Star Rank or above
  - It is the Scout's responsibility to be aware of requirement needs and seek opportunities to complete as those opportunities are presented on outings, at troop meetings and during activities.
- Contact Scoutmaster for a SMC (Scoutmaster conference)
  - Come to SMC prepared with as complete and up to date Field Uniform as possible. This may include your Merit Badge Sash
  - Be prepared to present an organized Scout notebook and Handbook
  - Do you know your scout law, oath, motto, slogan and the Outdoor code?
  - Did you do your good turn today?
- Contact Advancement Coordinator upon a successful completion of the SMC to schedule a Board of Review (BOR)
  - Be advised that your BOR requires 3 troop committee members in attendance so adequate time is required to coordinate attendance.
  - Come to SMC prepared with as complete and up to date Field Uniform as possible. This may include your Merit Badge Sash
  - Be prepared to present an organized Scout notebook and Handbook
  - Do you know your scout law, oath, motto, slogan and the Outdoor code?
  - Did you do your good turn today?
  - This is your opportunity to discuss your scouting experience with the troop committee members. Take advantage of the opportunity.
- Congratulations - You have advanced in Rank
- Your patch will be presented at the Troop meeting and the Scout Pin, Mother's Pin and card will be presented at the next Court of Honor. The card should be placed in your scout notebook.
- Sew the new rank patch on you uniform as soon as practical. You earned it !
- **REMEMBER – RANK ADVANCEMENT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY. ALTHOUGH THE TROOP PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADVANCEMENT, TAKING ADVANTAGE OF THOSE OPPORTUNITIES IS THE SCOUT'S RESPONSIBILITY.**

## **Merit Badge Completion and Recognition**

**\*\*\*\*It is the scouts responsibility to prepare himself for the requirements of rank advancement and merit badge recognition\*\*\*\***

For specific information on Rank Advancement and Merit Badge completion and Recognition please refer to the Troop Handbook located on the Troop website.

**REMEMBER – USE THE BUDDY SYSTEM – ANOTHER SCOUT, FAMILY MEMBER OR FRIEND SHOULD BE WITH YOU WHEN MEETING WITH THE MERIT BADGE COUNSELOR. BSA YOUTH PROTECTION GUIDELINES ALWAYS APPLY.**

- Information on available merit badges can be obtained from the Scout Handbook or on line at [www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org).
- The Troop library contains many of the Merit Badge Books. Requirements can also be found at [www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org).
- Choose a Merit Badge that interests you. Be aware of which rank advancements require Eagle required merit badges for advancement.
  - A Scout can work on any merit badge at any time in his Scouting career, however, certain merit badges are encouraged for younger scouts, those being Swimming and First Aid as the requirements for those merit badges correlate to the rank advancement requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class.
- Access the list of Merit Badge counselors in the troop and/or area to assure a Merit Badge counselor is available for your chosen Merit Badge. This is located on the Troop website
- Obtain a blue merit badge card from your Scoutmaster. Be sure the Scoutmaster signs and dates the card. Complete **your** information on the card.
- Contact the Merit Badge Counselor to schedule your first meeting
- Consider contacting other scouts in the troop or posting on Facebook to extend the invitation for participation to other members of your troop
- Complete the requirements for the Merit Badge under the supervision of the Merit Badge Counselor
- Plan on at least two (2) meetings with the counselor.  
When all the requirements have been completed, have the Counselor sign the blue card in the two (2) places it is required.
- The counselor should retain the part of the blue card marked “counselor record”
- You should receive the “Applicant’s Record” and the “Application for Merit Badge”
- Ask the Scoutmaster to sign the blue card again after the counselor has signed it.
- Place the Applicants Record in your scout binder
- Present the “Application for Merit Badge” to the Advancement Coordinator
- Merit Badge patches are presented at Troop Meetings on a routine basis
- Merit Badge card will be presented at the next Court of Honor and should be placed in you scout binder with your Applicant’s Record
- The Merit Badge patch should be sewn on your Merit Badge Sash as soon as practical.  
Congratulations.