

ADVANCEMENT INFORMATION

TROOP 224 - MALIBU, CALIFORNIA

An important part of the Scouting program is advancement. As scouts gain experience and obtain skills and merit badges, they will be eligible for advancement to higher ranks. Higher ranks require leadership positions in the troop.

The following information is intended to help Scouts and their parents understand the advancement program, requirements and policies of Troop 224. In all matters regarding procedure we follow the guidelines established in the Boy Scout Handbook, the Scoutmaster's Handbook, the Troop Committee guidebook, and the National Policy on Advancement. We support the National Advancement Policy of the Boy Scouts of America as contained in the National Advancement Guidelines.

The Troop has an excellent advancement record with many boys reaching the Eagle Scout rank. Individual accomplishment, advancement in rank, and public recognition are vital elements of the scouting program. The requirements for advancement from Scout to Eagle are contained in the Scout Handbook. It is helpful for a parent to periodically review these requirements with the scout to show interest in his progress.

Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class

Scouts advance by satisfying all requirements for a rank or badge, no more and no less. Requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class may be signed off by the SPL, ASPL or PL, as long as the person signing is at least First Class. Scoutmaster approval is required for a parent to certify an advancement requirement. This is not usually granted because it undermines the role of the boy leaders in the troop.

Star, Life and Eagle

All requirements for Star and above must be signed off by an adult leader.

Requirements for Star Scout are:

1. "Demonstrate Scout Spirit by Living the Scout Oath (Promise) and Scout Law in your everyday life".
2. "Be Active for at least 4 months as a First Class Scout" – Our troop policy to be considered active is, scouts must participate in 2/3 of all meetings and outings. Leaders (see requirement below) must participate in 4/5 of all meetings and outings to be considered active.
3. "While a First Class Scout, Serve actively in a Leadership Position" - Serve *actively* for the required period in one or more of the designated positions of responsibility.

4. "While a First Class Scout, take part in a Service Project" - Service projects are required for advancement to the rank of Star, Life, and Eagle. These Projects will be approved by the Scoutmaster before starting work. The Eagle project must also be approved by the district before commencing work on the project.

5. Earn six merit badges, including any four from the required list for Eagle.

The Scoutmaster or Troop Committee will not recommend a scout for advancement if fulfillment of these requirements is not evident.

6. "Scoutmaster Conference". When a scout feels he has satisfied all requirements for a rank, he must schedule a Scoutmaster Conference with the Scoutmaster. This should be done before Board of Review night.

7. "Board of Review". When the Scoutmaster is satisfied the Scout has passed all requirements for a rank, he will schedule the Scout to appear before a Board of Review (BOR). This is a review board consisting of 3-5 members of the troop committee. They will interview the scout to ensure he has passed all requirements.

This is not a retest on requirements. It is a discussion of what the Scout has learned, how he feels about the troop, and what the troop can do better.

Requirements for Life Scout are:

1. "Demonstrate Scout Spirit by Living the Scout Oath (Promise) and Scout Law in your everyday life".

2. "Be Active for at least 6 months as a Star Scout"

3. "While a Star Scout, Serve actively in a Leadership Position"

4. "While a Star Scout, take part in a Service Project"

5. Earn five more merit badges, including any three from the required list for Eagle.

The Scoutmaster or Troop Committee will not recommend a scout for advancement if fulfillment of these requirements is not evident.

6. "Scoutmaster Conference".

7. "Board of Review".

Requirements for Eagle Scout are:

1. "Demonstrate Scout Spirit by Living the Scout Oath (Promise) and Scout Law in your everyday life".

2. "Be Active for at least 6 months as a Life Scout"
3. "While a Life Scout, Serve actively in a Leadership Position"
4. "While a Life Scout, plan, develop and give leadership to others in a Service Project"
The project must be approved by your Scoutmaster, troop committee, and district advancement committee before you start the project. Scouts are to talk to the Scoutmaster when they wish to begin work on this project.
5. Earn a total of 21 merit badges (10 more than already obtained for Life), including the required list for Eagle.

The Scoutmaster or Troop Committee will not recommend a scout for advancement if fulfillment of these requirements is not evident.

6. "Scoutmaster Conference".
7. "Complete an Eagle Board of Review". This is scheduled through the District.

Merit Badges

When the scout feels he is ready to work on a merit badge, he will ask the Scoutmaster for a blue card. This authorizes the Scout to work on the requirements with a merit badge counselor approved by the Scoutmaster, the troop advancement chair and the district advancement committee.

The Scout is to call the Counselor (parents are not to set up meetings for the Scouts). When the Scout gets in touch with the merit badge counselor and the Scout should tell the counselor that he wants to earn the merit badge. The counselor may ask you to come and see him so he can explain what he expects and start helping you meet the requirements.

When you know what is expected, start to learn and do the things required. Ask your counselor to help you learn the things you need to know or do.

You are to read the merit badge pamphlet on the subject.

Merit badge counselors must be trained by the district advancement committee. Parents may sign up to be merit badge counselors in areas of interest or expertise. Parents may help by encouraging their son, reviewing requirements and helping them study. Generally, however, parents do not sign off on skill requirements and merit badges.

Requirement Satisfaction: You are expected to meet the requirements as they are stated -- no more and no less. You are expected to do exactly what is stated in the requirements. If it says "show or demonstrate," that is what you must do. Just telling about it isn't enough. The same thing holds true for such words as "make," "list," "in the field," and "collect," "identify," and "label."

Records: Your advancement records are kept in three places — your Council office, with the Troop Advancement Chairperson, and yourself. The Council office keeps records supplied to them by the troop Advancement Chairperson, who also keeps copies of these records for the troop. Many troop Advancement Chairs also maintain their advancement information on computers. You will receive three kinds of documents that you need to **KEEP IN A SAFE PLACE UNTIL AFTER YOU TURN 18** (or receive your Eagle Scout Award, whichever is later)! These documents are: your Scout Handbook with requirements signed off, your portion of completed blue merit badge cards, and the wallet-sized certificate cards for rank advancement and merit badge completion. Make sure all of them are dated and 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 (available commercially). **IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT THAT YOU KEEP THESE DOCUMENTS IN A SAFE PLACE AND DO NOT LOSE THEM!!!** If it should happen that there is any discrepancy or missing records, your personal records are your most important ally in proving what you completed.

Schedules & Deadlines: It is incumbent upon the scout and their parents to realize that adult leaders are volunteers who are busy with other matters in addition to troop business. Scheduling Scoutmaster conferences and committee Board of Reviews should not, therefore, be left until the last minute. A Scout's personal deadlines and time conflicts are his responsibility. Scouts should notify adult leaders by e-mail or telephone well in advance so they may adjust their schedules to accommodate these advancement activities.

Please be aware that adult leaders are not always able to change their schedules and may have to cancel appointments due to job requirements. Scouts will have to be flexible when meeting with adults.

Please talk with the Troop Advancement Chair (Chris Laubach) if you have any questions or concerns regarding this information.