

Boards of Review: An Overview for All Ranks (Scout Guide)

The Purpose of a Board of Review is:

- ✿ To make sure you have completed the requirements for the rank,
- ✿ To see how good an experience you are having in the unit,
- ✿ To encourage you to progress further.

What is a Board of Review?

The Board of Review occurs after a Scout has had his Scoutmaster Conference. It is the last step towards earning a rank advancement. A Board of Review consists of at least three, and no more than six, adult volunteers who are not the Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster (Patrol Leader). Your parents cannot be an adult on your Board of Review.

How does a Scout arrange for a Board of Review?

Troop 20 has three Boards of Review during one Scouting year. There is one in the fall, late-September/early-October, one in the winter, late-January/early-February, and one in the spring in late May before our end-of-the-year banquet. The specific dates are available on the Troop calendar each year.

To request a Board of Review, please email the Advancement Chair with your name and the rank or ranks you are trying to achieve. Remember that you are supposed to request a Board of Review, not your parents.

What does a Scout need to know for his Board of Review?

The Board of Review is NOT an examination or a “pass or fail” situation. It is a way for adult volunteers, usually parents, to get to know the Scouts in the Troop on an individual basis.

As you progress through the ranks, you will participate in many Boards of Review and your confidence in yourself and the review process will grow. You want to present yourself to the Board in the best possible way. Here are some ideas to help you accomplish this:

- ✿ Review all the work you have done to qualify for the Board of Review
- ✿ Apply what you’ve learned to the greater Scouting principles such as service, citizenship and personal fitness. Consider how it applies to your life both now and in the future.
- ✿ Review the Scout Oath, Law, Motto, Slogan and Outdoor Code. Know how you practice these values in your everyday life. Be prepared to give specific examples.
- ✿ Interact with the adults on the Board with confidence. Stand or sit upright and in a dignified position. Make eye contact with members of the Board. Speak clearly and with enough volume that you can be heard by all. Try not to answer, “I don’t know.” But also know it is okay if you do.

How does a Scout dress for his Board of Review?

Scouts need to wear their full “Class A” uniform. This is the same uniform you wear to the weekly Troop meetings. For Troop 20, this means wearing the complete uniform shirt with up-to-date badges and insignia. You can refer to your *Boy Scout Handbook* if you have questions where to put any badges or insignia. A Scout is clean, and your uniform should reflect this. Tuck in and button up your shirt. You should have proper Scout uniform pants and a belt if your uniform pants don't have one built into them.

What happens at a Board of Review?

You should report to the Advancement Chair when it is your assigned time. Your Scout book will be looked at as well as a quick uniform check will be performed. You then be directed to the adult grouping who will serve as your Board. You should stand and shake hands with each member of the Board and introduce yourself. You should present your *Scout Handbook* to the adults with it open to the appropriate page. The adults might ask you to stand at attention and recite the Scout Law, Scout Oath, Scout Motto, Scout Slogan and/or Outdoor Code.

The Board will then ask you questions related to the rank or ranks you wish to achieve. The questions will offer you an opportunity talk about your opinions, experiences, activities, and accomplishments. The questions may not be restricted to Scouting topics; questions regarding home, church, school, work, athletics, etc. are all appropriate. If you have more than one rank scheduled, you will sit with the same adult grouping for all ranks. But each rank will be treated as a separate Board of Review. The Board (adult group who you are seated with) is interested in your attitudes, accomplishments and acceptance of Scouting's ideals.

When all members have had an opportunity to ask their questions, you will be excused from the room or the immediate area. The Board will discuss your progress toward your next rank and decide whether you have met all the requirements. The Board will then invite you back into the room and inform you of their decision.

If there is some reason that the Board does not feel that you are ready to advance to the next rank, the Board will tell you what areas you need to work on in order to successfully complete the Board of Review. You and the board will determine a time for a subsequent Board of Review. The Advancement Chair will send a written follow up to you and the Scoutmaster outlining the deficiencies and the course of action to correct them that you and the Board agreed upon.

When the Board is over, be sure to shake hands with the adults and thank them for their time. Do not leave without your *Scout Handbook* being initialed and dated in the appropriate box!