

# Advancement, Ranks and Merit Badges - Overview

May, 2019

Troop 410  
Boy Scouts of America

Troop 410 website: [www.Northport410.org](http://www.Northport410.org)  
Rank advancement and merit badge resources:  
[www.Northport410.org/Advancements](http://www.Northport410.org/Advancements)

# Welcome

- Agenda
  - Purpose of advancement – The Aims of Scouting
  - What do you need to earn badges and ranks
  - Merit badge process
  - Rank advancement process
  - Q&A

# The Aims of Scouting

- Character development
- Citizenship training
- Mental and physical fitness
  
- Advancement is one of the 8 *methods* of Scouting used to achieve the aims of Scouting:
  - Ideals
  - Patrols
  - Outdoor Programs
  - **Advancement**
  - Association with Adults
  - Personal Growth
  - Leadership Development
  - Uniform

# Components of the Advancement Process

- Learn
- Test
- Review
- Recognize

# What are the Ranks in Boy Scouts?

- Scout (now an official rank with requirements, as of 2016)
- Tenderfoot
- Second Class Scout
- First Class Scout
- Star Scout
- Life Scout
- Eagle Scout

# What Do You Need to Advance in Scouting?

- Three things:
  - Your handbook – the Boy Scout Handbook - 13<sup>th</sup> Edition
  - A plan
    - YOU make YOUR plan
    - Consult and get advice from the Scoutmaster, the Assistant Scoutmasters and your fellow Scouts
  - Motivation – the interest and the drive to make it happen
    - **The Scout is responsible** for their progress on merit badges and rank advancement

Also see: Boy Scouts of America website - guide to advancement:

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards.aspx>

# For Merit Badges – What Do You Need?

For a step-by-step list, see this related document on the Troop website [www.Northport410.org/Advancements](http://www.Northport410.org/Advancements)

merit-badge-rank-advancement-handout

**Information for Applicant**

- A merit badge application can be approved only by a registered merit badge counselor.
- You must have a buddy with you (don't buddy system) at each meeting with the merit badge counselor.
- Turn in your approved application to your unit leader. You will be awarded the merit badge emblem and certificate at a suitable occasion.

**Information for Counselor**

- Merit badge applications must be signed in advance by the applicant's unit leader.
- The Scout must have his buddy (don't buddy system) in attendance at all instructional sessions.
- You may not change any requirements, but you may show your knowledge or experience that will make the counseling more interesting and relevant.

834124A



7 30176 34124 8

Requirement No. and title	Date of attainment	Counselor's name

**APPLICATION FOR MERIT BADGE**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_  
is a registered  
 Boy Scout  Varsity Scout  Venture  
or \_\_\_\_\_  
District: \_\_\_\_\_  
Council: \_\_\_\_\_  
I am qualified to begin working for merit badge credit on the reverse side.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of unit leader: \_\_\_\_\_

**BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA**  
31133AA  
©2010 Boy Scouts of America

The applicant has personally appeared before me and demonstrated to my satisfaction that he has met all requirements for the (please print)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Merit badge: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name of counselor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address of counselor: \_\_\_\_\_  
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone number of counselor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Checked and recorded by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Certificate and badge presented: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant will turn in this portion to his unit leader for record keeping.

**APPLICANT'S RECORD**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Has given me his completed application for the \_\_\_\_\_ merit badge.  
Completed on: \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of counselor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of unit leader: \_\_\_\_\_

**COUNSELOR'S RECORD**

Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Troop Unit number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Crew  
Merit badge: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date completed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTE TO BOY SCOUT, VARSITY SCOUT, OR VENTURE:** Retain this copy for your personal records.

It is suggested that the counselor keep this record for at least 1 year in case any question is raised later in regard to this award.

# For Merit Badges – What Do You Need?

- Where do you find a counselor or merit badge program
  - Check the district list – see the Scoutmaster or Advancement Coordinator
  - Check the Troop 410 list for counselors who are in the Troop – see Troop website, Scoutmaster or Advancement Coordinator
- Contact the counselor to ask them if they can work with you on your merit badge project
  - You must have another person with you at each meeting with the merit badge counselor. This person can be another Scout, your parents or guardian, a brother or sister, a relative, or a friend. Never meet alone with any adult in Scouting.



# For Merit Badges – What Do You Need?

- Other great ways to earn merit badges
  - At a camp
    - Summer camp at TMR with the Troop – you can easily earn 2 to 5 badges every summer at this camp
  - The Suffolk County Council Scout Camp at Baiting Hollow – Summer, Spring and Winter
  - Local day camps – likely to be a camp near by one or two weeks this summer – watch for emails
  - One-off events – for example – Troop-organized events like Shotgun day, or the Matinecock District summer Merit Badge program

# For Merit Badges – What Do You Need?

- Math Quiz for Scouts
  - Starting in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, Johnny earned 4 merit badges a year.
  - How many years did it take for him to earn 21 merit badges?
  
  - Part 2: What if Johnny earned 5 merit badges a year?
- See the “**Merit Badge Progress Plan**” on the Troop website for a five-year template
- Make your plan. Work your plan.

# Who is Responsible for Tracking & Progress

- **The Scout is responsible** for his own progress
- **The Scout is responsible** for keeping track of his progress
- **The key to success:** have a plan, and be organized

# Rank Advancement

For a step-by-step list, see this related document:

**merit-badge-rank-advancement-handout**

- Process outline
- Additional points
- At a **Board of Review** (BOR) meeting the Scout meets with 3-6 members of the BOR Committee and they discuss
  - His checklist progress for the new rank,
  - His experience in the Troop so far,
  - His plans and goals: next steps in the Troop and rank advancement
- Make sure you have a position in the troop every year (after your first year)
  - See Troop website for a list of positions

# Rank Advancement

- In addition to the rank checklists in your handbook, keep track of your:
  - Badges
  - Ranks
  - Positions in the Troop
  - Hiking miles
  - Camping and other trips
  - Service hours – very important for the upper ranks
  - Etc.
- This information will come in handy at your Board of Review meetings for future rank advancement

# Do You Want to be an Eagle Scout?

- To earn the rank of Eagle Scout, you must complete a minimum of 21 merit badges along with all other lower rank advancement requirements.
  - See your handbook for Eagle Scout requirements.
  - Also online:  
<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/eagle.aspx>
- Of the minimum 21 merit badges, 13 must be from this list of Eagle Required Badges:

- First Aid
- Citizenship in the Community
- Citizenship in the Nation
- Citizenship in the World
- Communications
- Cooking
- Personal Fitness
- Emergency Preparedness - OR - Lifesaving
- Environmental Science - OR - Sustainability
- Personal Management
- Swimming - OR - Hiking - OR - Cycling
- Camping
- Family Life

# Questions?

- Thank you.
- Troop 410 website: [www.Northport410.org](http://www.Northport410.org)
- Rank advancement and merit badge resources: [www.Northport410.org/Advancements](http://www.Northport410.org/Advancements)