

Advancement Guidelines - Troop 410

Troop Website: www.northport410.org/advancements/

Merit Badge Steps

1. Read the chapter on merit badges in your handbook.
 - a. Also – see information from BSA online: <http://www.scouting.org/MERITBADGES.aspx>
2. Select a badge that you want to earn
3. Get a blue card – see Troop Advancement Coordinator at a Wednesday meeting
4. Talk to the Troop Scoutmaster about your planned badge, and get his signature on the blue card
5. Contact a merit badge counselor and ask them if they will work with you on the badge
6. Do the work required for the badge. Communicate with your merit badge counselor as needed.
7. When you're done with your badge requirements, the merit badge counselor completes the blue card and signs it. The Scout completes his sections.
8. Get the Scoutmaster's signature on the blue card – see the Scoutmaster
9. Make a copy of the blue card *for your records*, and give the completed card to the Advancement Coordinator
10. The Advancement Coordinator files the completed Blue Card with Suffolk County Council, Boy Scouts of America
 - a. The completed badge goes on the Scout's permanent online record, which is maintained at National Headquarters in Texas

The Scout is responsible for managing their merit badge progress and their blue cards.

Make a plan and take action to earn your merit badges.

Rank Advancement Steps

1. Read the rank checklist in your handbook. Then figure out what you need to do for your next rank advancement.
 - a. Scrubs: talk to your Senior Patrol Leader/Scoutmaster/Assistant Scoutmasters for your advancement steps – they will guide you on what needs to be done and how to get signoffs completed.
 - b. All Scouts: ask fellow Scouts and any Assistant Scoutmaster for advice on what to do
2. After you complete an item, get signoff from an Assistant Scoutmaster.
 - a. Get the signoff done on the spot (if you have your handbook with you at the time) or as soon as possible after completing the item – for example, at the next weekly meeting. Don't delay.
3. After you have completed all of the checklist items for a rank advancement, request a Scoutmaster conference to review your progress – see the Scoutmaster for that.
4. After you have the Scoutmaster's signature on your rank achievements, request a Board of Review meeting – see the Advancement Coordinator to schedule the BOR.
5. Participate in your Board of Review meeting.
6. Following a successful Board of Review, your rank advancement will be submitted to Suffolk County Council by the Advancement Coordinator, and recorded in your permanent record at National Headquarters.
7. In Troop 410, the formal presentation of rank advancements is done at the next Court of Honor following your BOR. The COH's are generally held in October, January, March and June. The actual date of your rank advancement is the date of the successfully completed BOR.

The Scout is responsible for managing their rank advancement progress.

Make a plan and take action to achieve your rank advancements.

Questions? Ask your Senior Patrol Leader, the Scoutmaster, any Assistant Scoutmaster (ASM) or the Advancement Coordinator. We're here to provide advice and guidance to help you achieve your goals.