

Boy Scout Troop 539 Advancement Guidelines

To advance to the next Scout rank, the Scout must meet all the requirements listed in the Boy Scout Handbook. The following will further explain the requirements and the steps each scout must follow to advance in rank.

For the ranks of Tenderfoot through First Class, the requirements can be signed by any other scout who has achieved the rank of First Class or higher, although it will usually be the Patrol Leader. Upon receiving each, the Scout will receive an advancement card. The Scout **must** keep these cards in a safe place, as they are a required part of the application for the rank of Eagle.

Scouts of any rank may earn Merit Badges. Merit Badges are required for ranks above First Class. These merit badges must be signed by an approved adult Merit Badge Counselor. **Before** calling a counselor, the Scout must get a blue merit badge card from the Scoutmaster. This card must first be signed by the Scoutmaster, and then by the Merit Badge Counselor after he/she is sure that the Scout has completed all the requirements of the Merit Badge. The blue card is then returned to the Scoutmaster. At the next Court Of Honor the Scout will receive the Merit Badge, a white Merit Badge card, and the "APPLICANT'S RECORD" section of the blue card. The Scout **MUST** keep these cards in a safe place – these cards are a required part of the application for the rank of Eagle.

Each of the ranks has requirements about "ACTIVE PARTICIPATION" in Troop activities, service hours, and scout spirit.

The Troop Committee has established the following guidelines that each scout must meet for advancement:

1. **BE ACTIVE IN THE TROOP**: This Troop defines active as attending **75% of all regular troop meetings** and **50% of all Troop outings** since the scout's last advancement in rank.

Troop Meetings include: Regular meetings
 Patrol Meetings
 Patrol Leader Council Meetings (for Scouts with Leadership positions)
 Courts Of Honor
 Memorial Day Parade

Outings include: Summer Camp
 Weekend Campouts
 Day Hikes

2. **TAKE PART IN SERVICE PROJECTS**: Service projects must be **approved by the Scoutmaster in advance**. The hours spent on the service project must be recorded in writing by the person in charge of the service project and then reported to the Troop Advancement Committee Member. Time spent on Eagle service projects count towards this requirement. Service projects do not count towards the **ACTIVE** requirement (item 1 above).