

Troop 101

Rank Advancement & Merit Badge Guidance for Scouts and Parents

Advancement is an important and vital part of the BSA Program and for scouts in Troop 101. Below are some 'rules of the road' for rank advancement that scouts and parents should know, which will allow scouts to be successful in reaching their goals in the scouting program.

1. **Advancement is the responsibility of the individual scout.** Adult leadership (i.e. Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters, Merit Badge Counselors, etc.) will support scouts, but scouts are expected to take the initiative. It is not up to the adult leadership to get scouts to advance, but to support opportunities for them to advance.
2. **There is no expectation on how quickly a scout must advance.** Scouts have different timelines and motivations for how quickly they wish to advance and so there is no rule for how quickly they must advance. It is entirely at the discretion of the individual scouts, however, scouts are encouraged to make it a priority as the skills and experiences gained in the program yield achievement, recognition, and fulfill purpose.
3. **Parents are encouraged to help scouts in their advancement activities.** Parents play a vital role in encouraging and supporting their scouts through advancement and through prioritizing scouting goals versus other goals scouts have in their lives, such as academics, sports, and other extracurricular activities.
4. **Scouts must be able to demonstrate skills** to a registered adult leader or a fellow scout that is of first class rank or higher, holds a leadership position, and who has been approved by the Scoutmaster to sign off on rank advancement for ranks Scout through Second Class.
5. **Be Prepared! Scouts should have** a plan for rank requirements they want to complete and when. For example, if a scout wants to demonstrate proficiency with knots, they should identify the person who they will demonstrate to and schedule the meeting or other event where they want to demonstrate.
6. **15+ minutes will be made available at every meeting** for individual advancement activities.
7. **The Patrol Leaders Council and the Senior Patrol Leader should identify advancement opportunities** while planning programs and outings for the month.
8. **Troop Guides should be working together with the Patrol Leaders** on identifying advancement opportunities/creating advancement opportunities.
9. The Flight to Eagle program at Camp Squanto's summer camp is an excellent one week opportunity to work on rank advancement and all scouts are encouraged to attend.
10. Occasionally, the council and other parts of BSA will offer large merit badge advancement opportunities. Scouts and parents should look for these online or may hear about them in Troop Meetings.
11. Scouts looking for merit badge opportunities can find a full list of merit badge counselors on Scoutbook or they can approach a registered adult leader in the Troop. Scouts should let the Scoutmaster know which merit badges they want to work on and the Scoutmaster can provide a list of approved merit badge counselors for that merit badge.

If a scout has a question or needs help, they should approach a registered adult leader or a senior scout for guidance.