

Troop 49 Board of Review Assistance Guide

Purpose and Timeliness of Boards of Review

After a Scout has completed the requirements for any rank or Eagle Palm and has completed a Scoutmaster Conference he appears before a board of review. Its purpose is to determine the quality of his experience and decide whether he has fulfilled the requirements for the rank. If so, the board not only approves his advancement or Palm but also encourages him to continue the quest for the next rank or Palm.

Composition of the Board of Review

- 3 members minimum and no more than 6, all of whom must be at least 21 years of age.
- No member shall be on a Board of Review for their own son or sibling.
- Scout is to find members but can ask Scoutmaster or ASM for assistance if having trouble.
- At least 1 committee member or ASM shall be on the review board. If the Scoutmaster did not perform the Scoutmaster Conference with the scout he/she can be on BOR.
- Registered Adults or parents knowledgeable in the goals and aims of scouting are preferred.
- One member serves as Chair. The board chooses the Chair before meeting with the scout.
- The Chair conducts review meetings according to BSA procedures and reports results to the Unit Advancement Coordinator.

Conducting the Board of Review

- Scout should be in Class A uniform. The review should take about 15 minutes, no more than 30.
- A certain level of formality and meaningful questioning should exist, but it is important that the atmosphere be relaxed. It is a conversation about what scouting means to the scout. It should be a celebration of accomplishment. It is more about the journey.
- **It is not a retest or examination**, it is a conversation focusing on his scouting accomplishments. A positive attitude is most important, that the young man accepts Scouting's ideals and sets and meets good standards in his everyday life.
- The review is conducted with the Scout Oath, Law and Spirit in mind. Ask how he has lived these in his home, unit, school, and community. A Scout may be asked where he learned his skills and who taught him, and what he gained from fulfilling selected requirements.
- Possible questions: What do you like most about Troop outdoor activities, What new things did you do/learn at the last campout/service project/ troop meeting, What did you learn/feel when giving service to others, Why is being a Boy Scout important to you, What are your goals in scouting, and other questions that 'help the scout see the value and practical application of his efforts, What has been his experience in the troop, Ask him what he likes and dislikes about the troop. See if he has any suggestion for change. This is a great opportunity to improve the troop and its leadership.
- Board members must agree unanimously.
- If the scout passes there can be an announcement but Ranks and Palms shall not be presented until the signed advancement report is submitted to the local council.
- If a Scout is to be reviewed for more than one rank (Tenderfoot, Second Class, or First Class), each rank should have a separate board of review. While these boards may be conducted on the same date, it is preferred—if feasible—that different members be involved on the boards to give the young man an enhanced experience.
- If there are opinions the Scout should be rejected, they should discuss their reasoning with the unit leader or others who know the Scout. A discussion with the scout and parent should occur to explain why and what can be done to achieve success at the next Board of Review.