

Troop 156/Crew 156 Advancement Policy

RANK ADVANCEMENT

- A Scoutmaster Conference (SM) must be arranged with the Scoutmaster by the Scout.
- A Board of Review (BOR) must be scheduled by the Scout with the Advancement Chair after the Scoutmaster conference has been completed.
- Scouts must appear in full class "A" uniform consisting of shirt (tucked in), socks, pants/shorts, neckerchief/slide, and belt. Venturing Crew may appear in their Venturing Crew uniform.
- Scouts MUST bring their Scout handbook to both the SM conference and the BOR.
- "Active participation" of a Scout, in order to advance, will be determined by attending a minimum of ten activities/meetings per year. Each weekly meeting, campout, and participation in a service project of at least one hour will qualify. Camp MaKaJaWan will be considered an activity. In addition, Philmont, National Jamboree, and outing prep meetings, OA meetings, and older Scouts working with younger scouts OUTSIDE of the above activities as well as fund raising will be counted.
- "Serve actively in a position of responsibility" for advancement to Star, Life and Eagle will depend on the type of job. It's the Scout's responsibility to fulfill the job's requirements. A separate document is available on the website which provides details about each youth leadership position. The SM will determine whether a Scout has fulfilled his obligation in any leadership position.
- Service projects must be approved IN ADVANCE by the Scoutmaster. For Star and Life ranks, a Scout must perform six hours of service to others. These service hours are a combination of work done for others' service projects and a project led by the Scout. He is expected to conceive, plan and execute his project by coordinating a group or patrol. For Star rank Scouts are expected to have at least two hours of project work they lead, and for Life four hours on a project that they develop and lead. (See the work sheet later in this document.)
- **Venturing Crew Advancement.** Venturing Crew members that have earned the rank of First Class in a Scout Troop can continue to earn Boy Scout ranks in the Venturing Crew. They do not have to be affiliated with the Scout Troop. In Troop/Crew 156 the Scoutmaster or Venturing Crew Advisor can both sign-off on the "Scoutmaster Conference," service projects, and merit badge counselor approval for Venturing Crew members.
- **Venturing Crew Eagle Project and Conference sign-off** can be performed by either the SM or the Venturing Crew advisor.

BOARD OF REVIEW (except Eagle BOR)

- All Scouts must have a BOR or SM conference at least annually. 3-6 people from the Troop Committee will preside as the BOR. If committee members are unavailable, specifically trained adults may be substituted.
- SM, ASMs, relatives or guardians may not participate in the Scout's BOR.
- BOR decision MUST be unanimous based on the Scouts attitude and acceptance of scouting ideals.
- The purpose of the BOR is NOT to re-test the Scout.

MERIT BADGES

- A Scout **MUST** obtain a **blue card** from the Scoutmaster **BEFORE** beginning a merit badge.
- The Scoutmaster will guide the Scout to an appropriate merit badge counselor to ensure that the Scout is matched appropriately. The Scoutmaster must approve the merit badge counselor.
- Developing self-confidence from adult association is a key objective of the merit badge program. Every effort should be made to obtain a non-parent merit badge counselor.
- Using merit badge counselors from outside the Troop is encouraged but not required.

BSA Troop 156 and Venturing Crew 156 adhere to the policy and practice requirements and guidelines as specified by the Boy Scouts of America. They will be applied with common sense and fairness. Ultimately, it is the Scoutmaster, Venturing Crew Advisor and the Troop Committee's responsibility to interpret all Troop policies in the best interest of the overall Scouting program.

This Troop advancement policy/guideline was passed by the Troop 156 Committee on 1/12/04.

Star Rank & Life Rank Service Project Worksheet

Troop 156 has a long, proud tradition of guiding Scouts to Eagle. Part of that success comes from the learning that occurs as a Scout gives service while advancing through the ranks for Star and Life. As a part of the six (6) hour service project requirements for those ranks, a Scout is expected to initiate his own project in order to begin to learn the elements of planning and leadership that will be needed for his Eagle service project. The Scout-initiated service project must be a minimum of two (2) hours work for Star and a minimum of four (4) hours work for Life.

This worksheet is designed as a planning and evaluation tool for the Scout, and will assist both the Scoutmaster and the Board of Review in guiding the Scout's development toward Eagle readiness.

Project Plan for Star or Life Rank

Describe your proposed project: _____

Who will this project benefit? _____

Estimate the number of workers needed: _____

How do you plan to recruit your service team? _____

What supplies and/or equipment will you need and where or how will you get them?

What safety issues should be considered? _____

List the tasks you must to to accomplish your project (think through the steps needed in order: for example, 1) measure and mark locations for holes, 2) dig holes, 3) plant bushes, 4) replace soil, 5) water plants, 6: clean area)

Project Plan Approved by: _____ Date: _____

Note: Your plan must be reviewed and approved by the Scoutmaster before you begin work on your project.

Project Evaluation

Date(s) of your service project: _____

Who worked on your project?

Names of Scouts and Adults	Hours worked
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

(Add a second sheet if necessary)

What things went well?

What things could have been improved? What would you do differently next time?

Describe one think you learned about leadership from this project?

Project Approved by: _____ Date: _____

Note: Give the completed worksheet to the Scoutmaster as soon as possible after finishing your project.