



Serving on Boards of Review

Crossroads of America Council

What is a board of review?

- A meeting of a panel of adult volunteers with a boy who is a candidate for rank advancement.

What is the purpose?

- The objectives of a board of review (up to and including Life rank) is:
 - to ensure that the work required for advancement has been learned and completed, and that the Scout is ready to tackle the requirements of the next rank.
 - to find out about the boy's experience in his patrol and troop.
 - to encourage the Scout to progress further.

The board of review is ...

- ... a quality control check before conferring rank.
- ... an opportunity for the Scout to practice interview skills.
- ... a chance for the Scout to review his accomplishments to date.
- ... the last checkpoint before a rank is conferred and cannot be revoked.

The board of review is not ...

- ... a re-test of Scoutcraft skills.
- ... a rubber stamp.

Expectations:

- A board of review is an opportunity to review a Scout's attitude, participation, accomplishments, and acceptance of the Scouting ideals.
- Expectations increase with increasing rank in all areas – knowledge, leadership, involvement, and articulation.

Composition of a board

- For all ranks except Eagle, the board consists of three adults from the troop who are familiar with the ideals and methods of Scouting.
- Usually, they are members of the troop committee. They may also be non-registered adults who are familiar with Scouting.
- Relatives or guardians of the boy may not serve on his board.

Protocol for a board

- The Scout should be in full uniform with all insignia up to date and properly placed.
- The chairman will open the board by asking the Scout to recite one or more of
 - Scout Law
 - Scout Oath
 - Scout Motto and Slogan
 - Outdoor Code

(The objective is understanding rather than perfection. A Scout should be able to recite these with greater understanding and conviction as he grows in age, rank, and maturity.)

Protocol for a board (continued)

- Questions should be open-ended so that the Scout has an opportunity to offer opinions and ask questions.
- Topics need not be restricted to Scouting. Discussion of the youth's church, school, or other activities is appropriate.
- A board of review for ranks through First Class should not last more than about 15 to 20 minutes. Reviews for higher ranks may be a bit longer.

Protocol for a board (continued)

- When all board members have had an opportunity to ask questions, the youth is excused from the room.
- Board members consider whether the Scout is ready for advancement. The board's decision to pass a candidate must be unanimous.
- The Scout is invited back into the room and informed of the board's decision.

Protocol for a board (continued)

- If a Scout is approved for the next rank, congratulations are offered.
- This is a great time to reinforce coaching and suggestions for growth that the Scout may not have fully noted in the earlier discussion.
- The board members sign the rank advancement form and return it to the unit Advancements Chair.

Retaining a Scout in rank

- If there are issues which prevent the Scout from advancing to the next rank, the board must detail the specific nature of the deficiencies.
- The Scout is told what he must do to be successful at a future review.
- The board might note that the rank was Not Awarded, or they may choose to keep the board “open” for a time if the Scout agrees.

Typical Questions

- There is no prescribed list of questions to be asked at each rank review.
- Questions at lower ranks often focus on the Scout's experience and opinions, and on basic Scouting facts.
- As a boy rises in rank, the questioning becomes more rigorous and thought provoking.

Eagle board of review

- The Eagle candidate's board of review is different from those for lower ranks:
 - Board members are not from his troop.
 - The review is usually not at his home base.
 - A notebook highlighting his Scouting journey is prepared in advance.
 - Reference letters or forms solicited from others are made available to the reviewers.

A different purpose

- For reviews at lower ranks, the purpose is to check a Scout's progress and assess whether he is ready to tackle the next rank.
- The objective with an Eagle candidate is to determine if he has adopted the Scout Oath and Law as his personal doctrine, reciting them with conviction and accepting them as a lifelong commitment.

Sample Questions Tenderfoot

- When did you join our troop?
- How many outings have you attended?
- When do you use the Buddy System?
- What do you like best about Scouting?
- Can you tell us about the Patrol Method?
- When you have a great suggestion, how do you make sure it is considered by the youth leaders of the troop?

Sample Questions Second Class

- Have you attended summer camp?
- How do you 'do a good turn' at home?
- Why do you think Scouts participate in flag ceremonies?
- Tell us about a service project you've participated in.
- When do you expect to complete the requirements for First Class?

Sample Questions First Class

- Where did you go on your last campout?
What did you do?
- Why do you think merit badges are included in the Scouting program?
- What does it mean for a First Class Scout to be thrifty?
- Why do you think a duty roster is useful?
- Do you know what Order of the Arrow is?

Sample Questions Star

- Tell us about the last service project you took part in.
- How has a skill you've learned in Scouting helped you in some other part of your life?
- Have you received any special awards or recognition in school, athletics, or church?
- How would you test a new Scout on skills leading up to First Class rank?

Sample Questions Life

- What has been your most challenging experience in Scouting?
- Tell us about the interpersonal dynamics within your patrol.
- What leadership position did you hold while you were a Star Scout?
- What part of the Scout Law is the most challenging for you?

Sample Questions Eagle

- What challenges did you encounter with your Eagle Service Project?
- Tell us about something you learned from a younger Scout in the last year.
- How will you stay involved in your troop after earning the Eagle rank?
- What do you envision yourself doing ten years from now?

Sample Questions

Eagle Palms

- How have you been active in the troop in the last three months?
- What would you say to a Life Scout who is minimally active and seems to be losing interest in Scouting?
- What is the best way for you to provide servant leadership within your troop?
- What is the primary role of the Scoutmaster?