



Overview of Scouting and “Advancement”

You've signed up and completed your NEW SCOUT checklist...so what happens next?

Your scout will be placed in a Patrol within the Troop and can continue in scouting until he/she is 18 years old. Our website has lots of great information about our PROGRAM and STRUCTURE. This document is specific to how your scout should plan to advance through the scouting program.

Scouting is a process of learning new skills, overcoming obstacles, demonstrating an understanding of those skills, and then being recognized and rewarded for learning and demonstrating proficiency. This experiential process builds confidence, character, leadership and much more.

There is a *method of learning* used in Scouting called the **EDGE Method**- Explain, Demonstrate, Guide, and Enable.

There is a *method for progression* through Scouting which is called **Advancement**. Scouts “advance” by completing requirements and graduating through seven ranks. There is a 100+page *Guide to Advancement* book, which you can certainly read in its entirety, but we suggest you use four readily **available resources** instead:

- Your Scout Handbook- details exactly what needs to be completed and in what order
- Our Troop website: Troop222NC.com (PROGRAM>Advancement)
<https://www.troop222nc.com/advancement>
- The BSA official website Advancement page: <https://www.scouting.org/programs/scouts-bsa/advancement-and-awards/>
- Your scout's Patrol leaders and other scout-leaders, Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters

Scouting Advancement has **five basic parts**:

1. **Rank advancement** through learning and demonstration core scouting skills/requirements.
2. **Earning merit badges**. Some merit badges are required to complete a rank, others are earned because the scout had an interest in the subject matter and chose to complete the badge. This is where BLUE CARDS are introduced- please see *Overview of MERIT BADGE BLUE CARDS*.
3. **Serving in “positions of leadership”**.
4. **Serving our community- Do a Good Turn Daily** (see *Rank-specific Service Hours chart below*).
5. **Recognition of achievement** and progression is celebrated during one of three **Court of Honor** ceremonies throughout the scouting year. These ceremonies are scout-led.

Rank Advancement

- The scouting ranks in order are Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life, Eagle, Eagle Palms. Troop 222 strives to have young scouts earn First Class by the end of their first year.
- Each scout is responsible for their own advancement. Scouts learn and advance at different paces. Skills are learned during weekly meetings and campouts and typically taught by senior scouts or adult-mentors in this “scout-led” system. While supported and guided by adults, it is ultimately up to each scout to become proficient on their own.
- Scouts bring their handbooks and a pencil/pen to every meeting (a small notebook may also be helpful). It is not required that you purchase a handbook cover, but very helpful for holding and protecting their scout handbook, writing utensils, a small note pads and papers they may acquire during



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meetings. You can purchase a handbook cover from the Scout Shop or ETSY if you want something more personalized.

- Rank requirements are “signed-off” as completed by a Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster (ASM). Parents are not permitted to sign-off on met rank requirements.
- Scout progress is maintained by the Scoutmasters, ASMs and our Advancement Chair in Scoutbook (an electronic tracking system).
- **Scoutmaster Conference**
 - A Scoutmaster conference is a 10–15-minute review of the fulfilled rank requirements once a scout has completed their current rank. It also includes sharing ideas and opinions about the Troop, scouting program *likes and opportunities for improvement*, and seeking to understand what the scout envisions for their progression and timing, among other things.
 - The scout should attend wearing their Class A uniform, unless otherwise instructed, and brings their handbook and pencil/pen. This is a simple conversation between the Scoutmaster and scout.
- **Board of Review (BOR)**
 - A BOR is the last step in rank completion. Once the scout has completed all the requirements and a Scoutmaster conference, a BOR is conducted by non-official leader parent-volunteers. The scout attends wearing their Class A uniform, brings their handbook and pencil/pen. The panel asks the scout questions about their experience throughout the process of earning their rank. The panel consist of at least three parent-volunteers.
 - The BOR is also a chance for the scout to get-to-know other parents better and engage in conversation with adults. Please consider volunteering for BORs.
 - Each BOR typically has three parents and parents cannot sit on the BOR for their own scout.
- Resource: <https://www.scouting.org/programs/scouts-bsa/advancement-and-awards/>
- Resource: troop222nc.com>PROGRAM>Advancement: <https://www.troop222nc.com/advancement>

Earning Merit Badges

- Merit Badges (MBs) are small, round patches that are sewn on the green sash that drapes diagonally from over the scout’s right shoulder and across their body to their lower left hip. There are 136 different merit badges to choose from, each covering a different subject.
- There are specific MBs required for some ranks and are necessary for Eagle.
- A Scout must have approval from their Scoutmaster to begin a merit badge.
- Merit Badges are typically taught by MB counselors.
- While merit badges are earned throughout the scouting year, scouts also earn them during summer and other camps.
- Merit Badge completion is tracked through BLUE CARDS. It is very important that your scout does not lose their blue cards. Blue cards are proof that the scout completed the MB.
- Your scout will need to present these cards for their final Eagle Board of Review.
- Troop 222 currently provides Scout Binders and Card sleeves for your scout to store their Blue Cards.
- Resource: <https://www.scouting.org/programs/scouts-bsa/advancement-and-awards/merit-badges/>



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Serving in Positions of Responsibility/Leadership

- Scouting is scout-led, “patrol-model” leadership. Scouts learn leadership by holding and serving the troop via different roles. A scout must lead for specific amounts of time in specific positions of responsibility to complete rank requirement for advancement.
- Please see the Troop website> PROGRAM> “positions of leadership” for role descriptions and leadership flow. There is also a diagram illustrating the hierarchy of the Troop from leaders down.
- Resource: <https://www.troop222nc.com/positions-of-responsibility>

Serving Our Community

- Do a Good Turn Daily- the Scout Slogan, is at the core of Scouting. From Tenderfoot Rank onward your scout balances completing their requirements and focus of serving others in our community.
- The Troop organizes some service and conservation projects for scouts to participate in, but your scout may also gain approval to participate in other outside projects.
- If your scout aims to earn service hours on their own, the leaders are available to help them organize and complete their project, and their hours must be submitted to the Advancement Chair for record keeping. It is a good idea to speak with the Advancement Chair, too, before beginning.
- Service hours earned during their rank, only count towards that rank. A scout cannot earn hours for future ranks ahead of time.
- **Rank-Specific Service Hours:**

Tenderfoot	One Hour
Second Class	Two Hours
First Class	Three Hours
Star	Six Hours
Life	Six Hours

Recognition during COURT OF HONOR ceremonies

- A Court of Honor (COH) is a formal, scout-led recognition ceremony with families.
- The senior scout leaders primarily facilitate the ceremony and recognize the scouts for their ranks, merit badges, activities and other awards earned between ceremonies.
- Troop 222 typically has three COH ceremonies throughout the year. One in the Fall (October), one during Winter (January), and one close to the end of the year (May). These dates can be found on the Troop website homepage and on the printable calendar.
- Resource: <https://www.troop222nc.com/>



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TERMS YOU MIGHT HEAR:

- **Patrol**- group of scouts working together; positions of responsibility are held within the patrol (there may be several patrols in the Troop, 6-8 scouts per patrol, typically)
- **Positions of Responsibility**- leadership positions within the Troop and in each Patrol
- **Patrol Leaders Council (PLC)**- Scoutmaster, Senior Patrol Leader (SPL), Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL), Patrol Leaders (PL), Assistant Patrol Leaders (APL) and the Scribe typically make up the Patrol Leaders Council (PLS)- please see <https://www.troop222nc.com/positions-of-responsibility>
- **Rank**- one of seven “levels” achieved after completing their associated requirements
- **Youth Protection Training (YPT)**- course designed for parents and leaders to ensure scouts growing in a safe and supported environment
- **Scoutbook**- the automated tracking system we use to track scouts’ progression
- **Two-deep leadership**- two adult leaders are present when scouts are present; there is never 1:1 ratio of a leader and a scout
- **“The Key Three”**- The Chartered Organization Representative, Troop Committee Chair and Scoutmaster
- **The Tenets of Scouting (Scout Oath, Scout Law, etc.)** can be found on our website: <https://www.troop222nc.com/calendar>
- **When you SEE a leader hold up the scout sign, come to attention and be silent**

THE GREATER NATIONAL STRUCTURE OF SCOUTING:

Below is the structure of where Troop 222 is positioned, from the National level down to our Unit/Troop (222).

- ✓ **The National Council** is the highest level. The United States is divided into four regions and 16 National Service Territories (NSTs)
 - North Carolina falls in the Southern Region and National Service Territory #15. There are 272 local councils across the US, with 10 councils in North Carolina.
 - Mecklenburg County Council #0415. MCC is divided into three districts: Hornets Nest, Etowah and Apache.
 - Hornets Nest District. Hornets Nest is comprised of roughly 27 BSA “units” or troops, including boy troops and girl troops.
 - BSA Unit Troop #0222, BSA All Boys Troop

*Every unit is sponsored by a Chartered Organization. The Chartered Organization has a Representative, which acts as the liaison to the BSA unit.

**Every Unit must have three individuals to function: Committee Chair, Scoutmaster and Treasurer

***An example of Troop 222’s organization chart can be found on our website:

<https://www.troop222nc.com/positions-of-responsibility>

****Troop 222’s positions of responsibility change two times per year.