

Troop 248

Scout Handbook Rank Requirement Signing

To: All Troop Guides and Assistant Scoutmasters

cc: All Scouts / parents

From: Scoutmaster Leonard Elias

Effective: May 15, 2006

Words of Wisdom

“A Scout wanting to complete an advancement requirement must demonstrate to his leader that he has fully mastered the skill at the level expected.”

- The Scoutmaster Handbook

Overview

A Scout learns, a Scout is tested, a Scout is reviewed.

Learns: This is when the Scout is taught. Just because he is taught a skill does not mean he has mastered it. It may require time & practice on the Scout's part to fully master the skill. Don't sign his book yet...

Tested: After a Scout is taught, he is tested. This can be immediately after teaching the Scout or after a period of time after teaching the Scout. Either way, the Scout must master the skill; be sure the Scout knows his stuff before signing his book.

Reviewed: This is a two-stage process: Scoutmaster Conference & Board of Review. At these he is not retested, he is REVIEWED. If he has been adequately trained and tested, the SM Conference should be no problem. The SM/ASM performing the conference does reserve the right not to advance the Scout based on his inability to adequately review the requirements; he does not fail. The BOR is not directly about rank requirements, and must never be a retest of the requirements, but more of a discussion about the Scout, his goals, his interests, etc.

The Details

By signing the book, you are accepting responsibility that the Scout has learned and can demonstrate the requirement. If the Scout has difficulty in a Scoutmaster Conference, you will be the person that will be contacted to help him strengthen his skills. Be sure he knows his stuff before signing a book.

- **Troop Guides are Scouts that are the rank of Star, Life or Eagle** and have completed a brief Troop Guide training session.
- Troop Guides may only sign-off the ranks of Scout, Tenderfoot, 2nd Class, and 1st Class.
- Troop Guides may **not** sign the following requirements:
 - Scout: 9 and 10.
 - Tenderfoot: 1, 13, 14, and 15.
 - Second Class: 2a, 4, 7b, 7c, 8, 9, 10, and 11.
 - First Class: 3, 5, 9b, 10, 11, 12, 13.

- **First Class Note:** Most Scout books have only 12 requirements. The new requirement for telling someone about Scouts will be the new Requirement 11. Until the new books are released (and purchased) an additional entry will need to be made in the blank space at the bottom of the page, and current requirements 11 & 12 renumbered as 12 & 13, respectively.

Beginning January 1, 2006 an additional requirement will be added to the requirements for First Class rank in Boy Scouting. Scouts beginning their First Class requirement work after this date must complete the new requirement. Scouts working on First Class requirements prior to this date will have until **June 30 2006** to complete First Class rank without completing the new requirement. The new requirement tests the candidate's persuasive communication skills and can help make Scouting available to more boys. It reads as follows: "Tell someone who is eligible to join Boy Scouts, or an inactive Boy Scout, about your troop's activities. Invite him to a troop outing, activity, or service project, or meeting. Tell him how to join, or encourage an inactive Boy Scout to become active."

- **Only the Scoutmaster or an Asst. Scoutmaster** may sign the requirements for Star, Life and Eagle.
- **Only the Scoutmaster** may sign the requirement for demonstrating Scout Spirit. This will be the last requirement before completing a Scoutmaster Conference.
- **Only the Scoutmaster** may complete the Scoutmaster Conference for the rank of Eagle, except for that of the Scoutmaster's son, in which case an Asst. Scoutmaster will be chosen to complete the conference.
- Any one person, whether Troop Guide, Asst. Scoutmaster or Scoutmaster, may sign at most 25% of the requirements for any given rank, except Scout. This means there **MUST** be at minimum four different signers for each rank.
- In order to sign a requirement, you must have taught or reviewed the requirement with the Scout (insuring he has mastered the skill). For those requirements that occur on an outing, you must have been present and witnessed the Scout completing the requirement.
- To help the Scout learn responsibility, Troop Guides may only sign-off requirements within one month of the requirement being completed. After which, the Scout must be referred to the Scoutmaster or an Asst. Scoutmaster. The SM/ASM will review the requirement with the Scout and may sign or deny the Scout the sign-off. In the latter case, the Scout must repeat the requirement.
- The Scoutmaster and Asst. Scoutmasters may not sign their son's book or perform their Scoutmaster Conference.
- Signing a Scout's book is a privilege. Do not abuse it. Do not take this responsibility lightly. It is our responsibility to ensure our Scouts have learned and mastered the requirements.