

Troop 34 Policies

last updated: 23 Jun 2011

Merit Badges

- Official resource / reference:
<http://www.scouting.org/sitecore/content/Home/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/MeritBadges.aspx>
- Boy Scout chooses which Merit Badges to pursue and when – encourage use of Merit Badge Worksheets at: http://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Merit_Badges
- Scoutmaster issues each Blue Card upon request of Scout
- Total of 5 Blue Cards may be worked at a time
- Counselors must be registered with BSA as a Merit Badge Counselor and have completed Youth Protection training
- Ratio of 1-2 Scouts per Counselor. Occasionally, there will be times when larger groups are simultaneously pursuing a particular Merit Badge. If only 1 Scout is being counseled, there must be at least one other person present at all Merit Badge counseling sessions; another Scout, a sibling, a parent or a friend all qualify to satisfy the requirement for a 3rd person.
- As our general policy, parents should not counsel their sons. They may do so if the Scout obtains the joint approval of Scoutmaster, Advancement Chair and Merit Badge Coordinator. It is our preference that another Scout also be counseled on the same Merit Badge simultaneously.
- Counsel to the requirement as stated – Counselors may give more information but not demand more from the Scout(s) beyond the published requirements
- It is the Scout's responsibility to prepare for Merit Badge counseling and to contact the Merit Badge Counselor to schedule a discussion at a time and place that are acceptable to the Scout's parents – the Merit Badge Counselor must ensure that there is always 3rd human present for all counseling sessions.

Boards of Review (BOR)

last updated: 07 Oct 2010

- Official resource / reference: <http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33088.pdf> (pages 28-30)
 - “The **troop committee** (*not* Assistant Scoutmasters or the Scoutmaster) conducts a Board of Review to periodically review each Scout's progress, from Tenderfoot through Life ranks, to **encourage** him, to learn whether he is **enjoying** his Scouting experience, and to **evaluate** the unit's effectiveness in conducting the Scouting program to benefit him. The review presents a good opportunity to monitor the Scout's advancement and keep him on track. It also gives unit leaders a chance to measure the effectiveness of their leadership. The troop committee appoints **three to six individuals** to conduct the board of review.”
 - “A Board of Review is held whenever a Scout completes all the requirements for any rank, from Tenderfoot through Life, he appears before a board of review. He does so after having a **conference** with his Scoutmaster. Note that when a Scout has completed all the requirements for a board of review and then requests to have a board of review, he may not be denied a board of review.
- Troop 34 will endeavor to hold a BOR each 6 months for every Scout, this is especially important for Scouts who are not advancing and will facilitate a discussion between Scout and BOR members on the Scout's approach to advancement and any obstacles that might be in the way of advancement
- What is being reviewed?
 - Our Troop's program including unit leaders effectiveness
 - The scout's understanding of the program, including the Scout Oath, Law and requirements for rank advancement, and his ability to be a leader of the troop in the future
- What is not being reviewed?
 - Demonstration of basic skills and prior rank requirements – the Scout is not to be re-tested on signatures already obtained
- Protocols
 - Arrive with:
 - Clean, complete uniform
 - Combed hair
 - Stand
 - Be introduced to the Board by the Senior Patrol Leader
 - Be introduced to each Board Member by the BOR Chairperson
 - Recite, typically two of the following:
 - Scout Oath
 - Scout Law
 - Scout Motto
 - Scout Slogan
 - Sit attentively
 - Answer Board's questions enthusiastically with sentences

- Dismissal
- Return for Board's decision
 - In virtually all cases a Scout will be advanced, however, it is possible for a Scout to not advance at a BOR due to lack of knowledge or disrespect – in which case the BOR will need to be re-convened

- Question composition:
 - Tenderfoot / 2nd / 1st Class
 - Oriented around what you have done with the troop and your knowledge of the next rank advancement requirements
 - Star / Life
 - Oriented around your leadership and merit badge progress

- Suggestions for our Scouts:
 - Be prepared
 - Review your rank requirements
 - Review what you have learned from your leadership positions
 - Review what you have learned from your Merit Badges
 - Be able to share what motivates you in Scouting
 - Be able to share about other aspects of your life beyond Scouting
 - Think about some suggestions
 - What you like to see our Troop *STOP* doing?
 - What would you like our Troop to *START* doing?
 - What would you like our Troop to *CONTINUE* to do, or *DO MORE* of?

Troop Equipment Use

last updated: 09 Feb 2011

Troop 34 gladly supplies our Scouts, and frequently Cub Scout Pack 34, with access to a wide variety of Troop and personal outdoor equipment under the following provisions:

- **Check-Out:**
 - Quartermaster, or his designee, shall personally issue and keep a written inventory of all Troop equipment loaned into a Scout's care for the Scout's personal use, and the condition of the equipment at the time of loan
 - The Scout upon accepting any Troop equipment, should examine the condition of the equipment and report any discrepancies at the time of loan to the Quartermaster, or his designee
 - Accepting the loan of Troop equipment for personal use is also a promise by the Scout (and his parents) that the equipment will be returned to Troop 34 in the condition it was loaned. If Troop 34 equipment is damaged in the care of a Scout, the Scout (and his parents) agrees the equipment will be replaced, or repaired, or provisions made for repair by the Scout's family.

- **Use:**
 - The Troop expects that each Scout will care for and properly use the loaned equipment as if it were his own – normal wear and tear is unavoidable, but obvious abuse of Troop equipment will result in a Troop request of the Scout (and his parents) for repair or replacement of the equipment

- **Check-In:**
 - Quartermaster, or his designee, shall personally collect and keep a written inventory of all Troop equipment returned from a Scout's care, and the condition of the equipment at the time of return
 - The Quartermaster, or his designee, upon the return of any Troop equipment should examine the condition of the equipment and report any discrepancies at the time of return to the Scout, and to the Troop Equipment Coordinator and to the Scoutmaster
 - Accepting the loan of Troop equipment is also the promise that the Scout will return the equipment in the condition in which it was issued – for example, if equipment must be dried and cleaned at a later date beyond the date returned, the Scout commits to completing these actions for or with the Troop

- **Scout Hall (or any other facility):**
 - Return the facility to equal or better cleanliness and order than when you arrived