



New Scout Tip: Overview of Advancements

While you can certainly read the 100 page (literally) *Guide to Advancement*, it may be best to start with something a bit more simplified! It is **highly recommended** that you review the Troop 58 Advancement Guidelines and Procedures found on the troop website (see “Rank Advancement” page or click [here](#)).

Some key highlights to note after you review the full T58 Advancement Guidelines and Procedures:

- Advancement in the scouting program has four basic parts:
 1. Learning core scouting skills
 2. Earning merit badges
 3. Serving in leadership positions
 4. Serving our community
- Scouts are responsible for their advancement
- Scouts advance at different paces and should be encouraged to work at their own pace
- Although parents are encouraged to support and empower their scouts, they cannot sign off on rank requirements
- Scouts should bring their Handbook, a pen/pencil, and a small notebook to every meeting
- Once requirements are signed off by a Scoutmaster, scouts are responsible for showing their signed handbook to the Advancements Coordinator for input into Scoutbook
 - This should be done each time items are signed off so that Scoutbook remains as up to date as possible
- Scoutmaster Conference
 - A Scoutmaster Conference is conducted between a scout and a Scoutmaster and is simply a review of the rank requirements as well as a chance to talk with the scout about the scouting program
 - Topics to be discussed include the scouts likes, what they would change, what leadership roles are of interest, what plans are for the next rank, etc.
- The final step before a rank is earned is the Board of Review
 - Once a scout completes all rank requirements they are eligible for a Board of Review
 - A Board of Review is conducted by three non-Scoutmaster parents
 - Although the Board of Review can be a review of the requirements, the primary focus is to review the scout’s experience with the troop
 - Parent volunteers are needed for Boards of Review so keep a look out for volunteer requests and please make an effort to help with two Boards of Review each year