

## **Advancement to Star / Life / Eagle - Troop 3 Policies -**

In the following discussions, none of the advancement criteria should be considered to be solely determined by a specific unyielding number of completed activities or tasks. The troop will take into consideration the intent of the requirements and the accomplishments of the individual Scout as they relate to the requirements. Merit badge requirements, on the other hand, are not flexible.

- **DEMONSTRATE SCOUT SPIRIT** by living the Scout Oath (Promise) and Scout Law in your everyday life.

The Scout should be able to discuss how he has attempted to follow the ideals of the Scout Oath and Law during his daily life. It is unrealistic to expect any of us to demonstrate perfection in all we do, but Scouts are expected to reflect on past choices and what we might have done differently. The key question is whether the Scout demonstrates a desire to reflect, improve, and grow in his pursuit of the Scouting ideals.

- **BE ACTIVE** in your troop and patrol for at least 4 / 6 / 6 months in your previous rank.

The BSA Guide to Advancement defines being “active” as Scouting having “impact” on the individual. The Scout must be registered with the troop and be a member in good standing. In addition, the Scout must participate in the life of the troop (or approved alternative activities) to a level sufficient to engage in the character development promoted by the Scouting movement. Participation in troop activities, involvement with community service, pursuit of advancement opportunities, and fulfilling leadership responsibilities all can serve to demonstrate impact with the Scouting ideals.

- **LEADERSHIP:** Serve actively for 4 / 6 / 6 months in one or more of the following positions of responsibility (or for Star or Life carry out a Scoutmaster-assigned leadership project to help the troop):

Patrol Leader, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol Leader, Venture Patrol Leader, Troop Guide, Order of the Arrow Troop Representative, Den Chief, Scribe, Librarian, Historian, Quartermaster, Bugler\*, Junior Assistant Scoutmaster, Chaplain Aide, Instructor, Troop Webmaster, or Leave No Trace Trainer. (\* = Star and Life only)

A hallmark of the Scouting experience is the development of a Scout’s leadership skills through active participation as a youth leader. There are a number of listed troop positions that can serve to fill this requirement.

An alternative for candidates working on Star and Life is to take on several special Scoutmaster-assigned leadership projects throughout the year. The Scoutmaster will inform the Scout how many months of leadership a given special project is equivalent to, for example keeping track of participation at a local service project might count for one month of leadership. According to BSA policy this option of using multiple special projects is not available for Eagle candidates. Earning the rank of Eagle requires meeting the commitment of sustained leadership accountability.

- **LEADERSHIP:** (continued)

“Serve actively...” is a critical standard for meeting the Leadership requirements. It is not enough to just hold a title – the Scout must fulfill his responsibilities. That is to say, **it is the way that the position is performed and not the badge on the sleeve that earns the Scout the desired leadership credit.**

**For Patrol Leaders:** Being an active patrol leader requires a balance of attending: (1) the monthly Troop Leader Council meetings; (2) camping trips and other outside troop events; and (3) the weekly troop meetings. It is not realistic to expect perfect attendance, but on the other hand effective patrol leadership does require an ongoing presence in front of the patrol on troop outings and at meetings.

**For Other Troop Leadership Positions:** The specific job responsibilities of troop positions like Scribe, Historian, Bugler, etc. vary from one to the next. Consistent throughout all of them, however, is an expectation of:  
1) commitment to the position; and 2) accomplishment of associated tasks. A recurring theme for all of the jobs is that the **SCOUT TAKES THE INITIATIVE** to pursue the responsibilities of the position rather than sitting back waiting to be asked to perform. Examples of tasks that might serve to meet the requirements of the various positions are listed below.

**Scribe:** attends PLC meetings and provides published minutes

**Historian:** maintenance of a scrapbook or some other form of archive for troop events throughout the year

**Librarian:** organize troop merit badge books and take initiative to actively promote availability of library throughout the year

**Leave No Trace:** take initiative to raise LNT awareness on camping trips and provide necessary training to Scouts

**Webmaster:** work with adult web designer to upload documents and photos to website and provide other useful online information

**Chaplain Aide:** lead troop in Scouts Own services on camping trips, seeking the participation of other scouts to help conduct those services.

**Order of the Arrow Representative:** Actively promote OA activities that are available to OA members.

**Instructor:** Take initiative to work with Advancement chairman and other adult advisors to help provide instruction to younger scouts.

**Bugler:** Be accountable for using the bugle to keep the troop organized and honor the flag on troop outings. (According to BSA policy being Bugler only counts towards Star & Life, not Eagle)

When in doubt **IT IS THE SCOUT’S RESPONSIBILITY** to check with the Scoutmaster during early stages of rank advancement to insure that the current level of performance in the leadership position is sufficient to meet the requirements for rank advancement. Do not wait until the end of your rank advancement to check on your status.