

Star & Life Board of Review Process for Troop 57

Qualification and Scheduling

When the Scout has passed his SMC, the ASM who led the SMC notifies the SMC Coordinator that the Scout is ready for a Board of Review (BoR). The SMC Coordinator then notifies the BoR Coordinators to schedule the scout's board. The dates for troop-level Boards are intended to coincide with the troop Court of Honor ceremonies. These are on the troop calendar. After passing his SMC, a Scout will be scheduled into the next BoR date in which space is available.

The new rank is earned upon successful completion of the Board of Review (the Court of Honor is simply the public recognition of the advancement). The Scout may begin earning leadership and service credit for the new rank immediately following successful completion of the BoR.

The various lead times require that a Scout plan well in advance of a BoR if he intends to be recognized for earning the new rank at a specific Court of Honor. The following example shows that a Scout should attempt to complete all requirements for the new rank at least a month ahead of the BoR he hopes to attend (particularly true for *Star and Life*).

Based on the below example dates the Scout should contact their Patrol Lead ASM early in January to indicate his intent to pursue a Star/Life Advancement at the next BOR. Six weeks before the BOR date is ideal.

Deadline	Example	Event
The Saturday Two weeks before SMC Deadline	23-Jan 2016	Patrol list due for Star/Life SMC
The Saturday Two weeks before BoR Deadline	06-Feb 2016	Scouts SMC Request Deadline
	22-Feb 2016	Board of Review
	06-Mar-2016	Court of Honor

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What to Expect at a Board of Review

The Boards are generally held on a Monday evening, 7-9 pm, on a designated date, 3 times per year. The location varies, but most reviews are held at Trinity Lutheran Church, across Melville from the Fire Circle (corner of Melville and Middlefield). You will receive an email with the schedule and location a few days before the review.

A Board of Review is a conversation with three adults, usually Troop 57 parents, who will ask you about what you've been doing with our Troop and with your Patrol, as well as how you have been making the Scout Oath and Law part of your daily life. They will want to know what you particularly enjoy and what you'd like to change about your Patrol and the Troop.

While you should review the skills that you practiced while preparing for the Scoutmaster Conference, the emphasis in the Board of Review is more on how you use the skills, rather than the how to do the skills themselves.

How Should You Prepare?

There are some basics for all ranks. First, remember that while you'll be the only scout with three adults asking you questions, the reviewers want to be helpful and friendly. They will check for **complete**, Formal Class A uniform - shirt (with insignia), Scout neckerchief, slide, scout pants or scout shorts, belt, and socks. Star and Life candidates should wear their merit badge sash. This is the Formal Class A Uniform listed at <http://www.troop57.net/filer/public/uniform>. The reviewers will need to see your initialed Scout Handbook (everything for the rank should be initialed, except the Board of Review). You'll need to be able to demonstrate knots, and answer questions about scout skills (including first aid and outdoors skills learned through the rank you are seeking) and activities.

You'll also be asked to recite the Scout Law, Oath, Outdoor Code, Motto, and Slogan. Think about what those words mean, and how you have been following the Oath, Law, Motto and Slogan at home and school.

Additional Expectations for Star Rank

Star reviews take 25 minutes. Review the skills you reviewed for your Scoutmaster Conference and be prepared to answer some skills-based questions. The majority of the time, however, will be spent on leadership, service, and the values of Scouting. You should think about how you live the Scout Oath and Law in your daily life. You should be prepared to discuss the meaning of all the statements in the Scout Law and Oath, including ways in which you help other people, and how you are keeping yourself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight. **Spend some time reflecting on what the ideals of Scouting mean to you!**

You should also be prepared to discuss your leadership position and your own leadership style. What worked and what didn't? What did you learn? What would you like your next position to be? What is going especially well in your Patrol and our Troop, and what changes would you like to make? You should be prepared to discuss, in general terms, the merit badges you have completed, service projects, Oljato, and future plans for badges, service projects, and leadership positions.

Additional Expectations for Life Rank

Life reviews take 30 minutes. They are similar to *Star* reviews, but the reviewers expect much more thoughtful responses from Life candidates. This review will give you a good feel for what the *Eagle* Board of Review is like. Do all the preparations recommended for *Star* Rank (above). The *Life* Board will discuss leadership and service at length.

You should spend a lot of time thinking about how you are incorporating the ideals of Scouting into your life. Think about each phrase in the Scout Oath, Law, and Outdoor Code. You should be able to answer questions such as: What does honor mean? What is your duty to God and your country? Is it OK to lie? What will you do if a friend is cheating on a test, or

smoking, or drinking, or using drugs? What does “clean in the outdoors” and “conservation minded” mean?

People expect Boy Scouts to have certain basic skills. These include building fires, tying knots, navigation with and without a compass, flag handling, and first aid. Make sure you review all Scout basic skills, and that you are also prepared to discuss the knowledge you have gained while earning *Eagle*-required merit badges, especially those related to your rights and obligations as an American citizen.