

Patrol Advisor Information – Troop 442

Patrol Advisor: Responsible for monitoring advancement progress of scouts in assigned patrol, and reviewing patrol's camp supplies and menu plans. Patrol Advisor recommends Troop program and campout activities to facilitate scout advancement. Encourages variety in menu planning and cooking skills.

- Monitor progress of scouts against requirements; keep an advancement log
 - Highlight areas where instruction is required to the SM and SPL
 - Volunteer to set-up or support advancement activities as required
- Attend Troop Meetings – Support weekly meeting activity
- Attend Patrol Meetings – Work with the Patrol leader on agendas, suggest activities for patrol meetings, guide them in leadership skills, conducting a meeting, etc.
- Attend Campouts – Work with patrol; if older scouts are not available, instruct on proper tent placement, tent set-up, kitchen set-up, cooking, fires, etc. In general, oversee the activities. The scouts should be leading the activity but sometimes Adult instruction is required.
- Help to prepare scouts for SMC's and BOR's
- Participate in BOR's as requested
- If Patrol Advisor is a member of the Rocking Chair Patrol – review and signoff of scout's requirements in their books.
- If Patrol Advisor is a member of the Rocking Chair Patrol - conduct Scout Master Conferences as requested.
- Remember that we require "Two Deep Leadership" at all meetings and activities.

It is highly recommended that Patrol Advisors be members of the Rocking Chair Patrol.

- **LEADER TRAINING.** It is the policy of the Troop to encourage all active Registered Leaders to obtain Boy Scout Youth Protection Training (YPT) and Fast Start Training. Leaders are also highly encouraged to attend Scoutmaster Fundamentals. Our Troop membership averages about 70 Scouts with 30+ registered adults. (We currently have over those numbers.) The successful operation of a group this large depends on the trained leaders that the **PROVEN** Scouting program offers. Our adults are registered as Assistant Scoutmasters, Merit Badge Counselors, or Committee Members. The majority of our registered adults have been through FAST-START training and Scoutmaster Fundamentals. We are privileged to have so many active parents, and always welcome more. Training opportunities are available at regular intervals through the Troop, District and Council offices. YPT is available at <http://www.scouting.org/pubs/ypt/ypt.jsp>; it is also held periodically at Troop meetings and District Roundtables.
- **"ROCKING CHAIR PATROL".** A term you may hear is the "Rocking Chair Patrol". This is the group of Adult leaders who actually take the Scouts camping. Though other Leaders may accompany the Rocking chair patrol on a campout, two Rocking Chair Patrol members in attendance is a must as these are the people who have had the required Scoutmaster Fundamentals and the Youth Protection training. All parents are encouraged to attend these training opportunities when the Troop, District or Bay Area Council makes them available.

Patrol Meetings:

Once a month, Patrol meetings are conducted. The Patrol Leader is responsible to notify each member of the patrol as to the location, time, and topics to be covered in the meeting. There is no requirement on the subject or content of the meeting. The boys could simply be getting together to spend time for a social activity, or it could be more requirement based, such as work on knots and lashings, or they could schedule a merit badge session for one of the easier merit badges such as fingerprinting. The PL should try to encourage advancement of the members of the patrol and if he can schedule patrol activities that further scout's progress that is part of his leadership requirement.

During the Patrol meeting the Advisor should review the books of each scout and keep track of their advancement progress. The Advisor should then recommend to the SM Troop program and campout activities to facilitate scout advancement.

If the Patrol Advisor is a member of the Rocking Chair Patrol, the Advisor could also review and signoff requirements as needed or demonstrated by the individual scouts during the meeting. In some instances, if properly coordinated with the Advancement coordinator, SMC's could be conducted at Patrol meetings if necessary due to conflicts with the Troop meetings.

The boys are primarily responsible for their meeting plans, camping activities and advancement coordination, but sometimes a gentle push or suggestion is required to keep them moving.

BOY-LED TROOP. The Troop is boy-led and run by the Patrol method which means adults are there for assistance and gentle guidance, but that the boys are primarily responsible for their meeting plans, camping activities and advancement coordination. The patrols normally meet as a group for a short time during each Troop meeting. Separate Patrol meetings away from the church are encouraged but do require "Two Deep Leadership" (See the Safety Requirements, paragraph of this section). A caution for some things you may witness; being "boy-led" means that we sometimes let an event or activity suffer and allow the Scouts to teach themselves though trial and error. It can be difficult to sit though these situations and we carefully monitor them to see that the lesson learned meets the situation, and that too much suffering (on the Scouts as well as the Leaders) is avoided.

ADVANCEMENTS

1. The Scout is responsible for reviewing the requirements of each Rank or Merit Badge, and recognizing opportunities to complete same. Upon completion, the Scout has an Adult Leader sign off the requirement. **Parents do not sign off for their own Scout, this includes Merit badges.**
2. Upon completing the requirements for rank advancement, the Scout arranges with the Scoutmaster (SM) for a conference. The Scout should be prepared to demonstrate all skills learned from joining requirements up to the rank he is applying for. Upon successfully completing this conference, the Scout approaches the Advancements Chairman for an appointment for the Board of Review (BOR). A sign up sheet is made available and posted.
3. It is helpful to the younger ranks to approach an older ranked Scout for a "review" for the Board of Review, in which skills will once more be reviewed, prospective questions, appropriate manners and dress can be covered.
4. It has been the past policy for the Scoutmaster & Troop Committee to determine which Adult Leaders can sign off for rank requirement to First Class. A list of these names is posted on the Troop web site. The Scoutmaster will sign off on the section regarding Troop leadership; for Den Chief the Cub Scout Leader should sign off the requirement. The Scoutmaster has reserved rank advancement of Star and above for his own review. When in doubt, please check with the SM.
5. Page numbers are listed next to certain requirements in the rank advancement section of the Boy Scout Handbook. Although the Scout handbook is over 600 pages, please make an effort to read a little at a time with your son, especially the ones pertinent to the requirement your Scout is working on.
6. Leadership is required for Star, Life, and Eagle ranks. Troop office requirements, are spelled out for each rank on a document known as "Troop 442 Scout Job Descriptions" that is distributed the week before Troop Elections. Scouts are required to review these in advance, prior to running or volunteering for an office. Along with this document is a "Contract" which is signed by both the Scout and his Parent for the purpose of gaining parental approval prior to running for office. This is required so that we know that your Scout has your complete approval and support for the extra meetings and work involved. If your Scout has too many other things happening in his live, such as school, band, religious or social obligations, perhaps it's not the time to take on the extra responsibilities of a Troop position. On the other hand the extra responsibility may bring your Scout to a higher level of maturity - hence our request for your input. Time served is usually considered from April to October, and from October to April. Keep this 6-month time period in mind when getting ready to schedule your Board of Review(BOR) for the next rank.
7. Scouts are required to insure that all appropriate signatures have been obtained before scheduling either a SM conference or a BOR.
8. A separate Troop policy document details the requirements for the SM Conference and BOR.

INDIVIDUAL SCOUT ADVANCEMENT GUIDELINE

This outline details how a new scout may be able to advance and the opportunities that the Troop should provide for the scout.

Time	Rank	Activities
<i>Spring</i>	Scouter	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This is the time of year that the second year Webelos are finishing and crossing over. The Scoutmaster is pretty busy attending crossovers and inviting Webelos to join the Troop. The new scouts should meet with the Scoutmaster on the first night that they attend a meeting. At this meeting, they should meet all the Scouter requirements except for the Youth Protection Training that they must do with their parents. The Scoutmaster should sign all of the new scouts' requirements for Scouter. This is a real job for the Scoutmaster and he/she may want to delegate some of the duties. However, it is important for the Scoutmaster to meet all of the boys and their parents. All new scouts should receive the Scouter badge at the Court of Honor in late May.• The new Scouts will form patrols and elect a Patrol Leader, Assistant Patrol Leader, and Quartermaster.• The Troop should show the youth protection film "A Time to Tell" at a meeting in April or May for the entire Troop, but particularly for the new Scouts.
	Tenderfoot	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Scouter will be attending the regular Tuesday night meetings and should be getting his physical fitness, knots and first aid training within the first month or two.• The Troop campouts in March, April, May and June should include training for the outdoors portion of Tenderfoot and Second Class. Scouters are strongly encouraged to attend these campouts to help them bond with their new patrol and the Troop, to help them with rank advancement, and to prepare them for a long-term June or July Summer Camp. The Troop should schedule an Advancement Day in May or June for compass skills, plant identification, etc.• Most Scouts will receive the Tenderfoot badge at the Court of Honor at the end of the summer, but some may be able to earn it for the one in April.
<i>Summer</i>	Second Class	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Summer Camp programs should provide a great opportunity for the new Scouts to earn a rank and two or three merit badges, usually Swimming, First Aid and one or two others. Most Summer Camp programs offer a "Trail-to-Eagle" program that is highly recommended for new Scouts. August meetings should be used to finish any Second Class requirements. Most Scouts will receive Second Class at the Court of Honor in late July/early August or at the one in October.

<i>Fall</i> <i>Winter</i>	First Class	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most of the Fall will be spent on First Class requirements. Fall and Winter Camp at Karankawa is an ideal time for the new scouts to finish any First Class requirements, and earn several Eagle-required Merit badges. January meetings can be used to help finish any incomplete merit badges from Winter Camp. • If the Troop can have most of the new Scouts receiving their First Class badge by the April Court of Honor, about a year after they joined, then the Scouts have a great start the Eagle Award. However, we must be very careful to make sure that the Scouts are learning what they need to learn and not just going through the motions to earn a badge. We are not an award factory. We are a training ground for young leaders.
<i>2nd Year</i>	Star	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Star rank requires six merit badges with four of those Eagle-required. Most Scouts will have these by the time they receive their First Class if they have attended Summer and Fall or Winter Camps. The Troop will be offering Merit badges at meeting, long-term camps and at special programs for these Scouts. • Star rank requires four months as a First Class Scout and four months of leadership in a Troop position. The Troop needs to make sure that there are enough leadership opportunities available. These can be supplemented with special leadership projects approved by the Scoutmaster. • Star rank requires six hours of service while a First Class Scout. The Troop should be offering plenty of opportunity for this requirement if we are having a service project each month.
	Life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Life rank requires eleven merit badges with seven of those Eagle-required. The Troop will be offering Merit badges at meeting, long-term camps and at special programs for these Scouts. • Life rank requires six months as a Star Scout and six months of leadership in a Troop position. The Troop needs to make sure that there are enough leadership opportunities available. These can be supplemented with special leadership projects approved by the Scoutmaster. • Life rank requires six hours of service while a Star Scout. The Troop should be offering plenty of opportunity for this requirement if we are having a service project each month.
<i>3rd Year +</i>	Eagle	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eagle rank requires twenty-one total Merit badges with twelve of those Eagle-required. The Troop will be offering Merit badges at meeting, long-term camps and at special programs for these Scouts. • Eagle rank requires six months as a Life Scout and six months of leadership in a Troop position. The Troop needs to make sure that there are enough leadership opportunities available. These can be supplemented with special leadership projects approved by the Scoutmaster. • Eagle rank requires the Scout to develop and give leadership to a service project. The Troop should provide an adult to guide the Scout through his execution of this project. It is the Scout's initiative that must be the force behind the project.