



## **Troop 870**

# **Board Of Review Guide**

**Version 1\_01**  
**Updated June 2012**

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# 1 Overview

The final step in advancing a rank is for the Scout to complete a Board of Review. Troop 870 conducts Board of Reviews (referred to in this guide as “Troop 870 Board Of Reviews”) for all ranks except for Eagle. This includes Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life and Eagle Palm. Eagle Board of Reviews are conducted by at district level. The Scout rank does not include a Board of Review.

The key goals for a Troop 870 Board of Reviews are:

- Discuss and encourage the Scout’s involvement in Scouting.
- Discuss what the Scout has learned in the course of completing the rank requirements. **The Board of Review is not a retest of these requirements.**
- Gather feedback from the Scout concerning his Patrol, the Troop and Scouting in general.

Troop 870 Board of Reviews are conducted by three Troop 870 adults (registered or non-registered, 21 or older, but not a parent/guardian, Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster). The Board of Review Chair must be a registered adult (preferably a Committee Member). All reviewers must be Board of Review trained.

When requested by a Scout, the Advancement Chair reviews the Scout’s rank requirements to ensure they have been completed, selects the reviewers including the chair, trains any reviewers who have not been trained and schedules the Board of Review.

Troop 870 Board of Reviews are typically conducted at Troop Meetings. Scouts should contact the Advancement Chair prior to the meeting to ensure they have enough time to arrange the Board of Review. The Board of Review Chair is responsible for overseeing the Board of Review and providing feedback to the Scoutmaster and Committee Chair.

See the [Board Of Review Guide](#) on the Troop website and the [BSA Advancement Guide](#) for more information.

## 2 Troop 870 Board Of Reviews

Troop 870 conducts Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life and Eagle Palm Board of Reviews as follows:

1. The Scout completes and has signed-off all other rank requirements.
2. The Scout contacts the Advancement Chair and requests his Board of Review be scheduled.
3. The Advancement Chair ensures all other rank requirements have been completed.
4. If so, the Advancement Chair selects three reviewers for the Board including the Chair, trains any reviewers who have not been trained, provides the Chair with an [Advancement Report Form](#) and [Board of Review Feedback Form](#) (see section 7) and schedules the Board of Review.
5. All Troop 870 adults (registered or non-registered, 21 or older, not including a parent/guardian, Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster) are eligible to be a reviewer. The Board of Review Chair must be a registered adult (preferably a Committee Member). All reviewers must be Board of Review trained.
6. The Scout and Board should review the [Board Of Review Guide](#) including suggested questions on the Troop website prior to the actual Board of Review.
7. Troop 870 Board of Reviews should generally be about 15-20 minutes and no longer than 30 minutes.
8. At the conclusion of the Board of Review, the Board confirms through unanimous consensus that the Scout has successfully completed the Board of Review.
9. If confirmed, the Board signs the [Advancement Report](#). The Chair provides it to the Advancement Chair. The Advancement Chair records the advancement in the Troop Database and provides a copy of the form to the council office.
10. If not confirmed, the Board explains to the Scout where further attention is needed. The Scout can then address those areas as a follow-up. Once addressed, the Board approves the rank advancement.
11. The Chair fills in the [Board of Review Feedback Form](#) with the help of the other reviewers and provides it to the Advancement Chair. The Advancement Chair provides a copy to the Scoutmaster and Committee Chair for incorporation into the Troop's scouting program.

### 3 Eagle Board Of Reviews

The Eagle Board of Review is similar to the other Board of Reviews, but conducted in greater depth. The Eagle Board of Review is handled as follows:

1. The Scout completes and has signed-off all other Eagle rank requirements.
2. The Scout contacts the District Advancement Chair and requests an Eagle Board of Review be scheduled. The Scoutmaster can provide the contact information for this person.
3. The District Advancement Chair reviews the Eagle Scout Application, Letters of Recommendation, and Eagle Scout Service Project Workbook to ensure the Scout has met all other requirements for the Eagle rank.
4. If so, the District Advancement Chair selects two to five adult reviewers for the Board including the Chair and schedules the Board of Review. The troop Advancement Chair selects one Troop 870 adult (registered, 21 or older, preferably a Committee Member, not a parent/guardian, Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster) for the Board.
5. The Scout invites a Troop 870 adult (can be anyone including the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster or Eagle Counselor) to be his Advocate at the Board of Review. The Advocate supports the Scout if needed during the Board of Review, but is not part of the actual Board of Review.
6. An Eagle Board of Review is generally 30-45 minutes.
7. At the conclusion of the Board of Review, the Board confirms through unanimous consensus whether the Scout has successfully completed the Board Of Review.
8. If confirmed, the Board approves the Eagle Scout Application.
9. If not confirmed, the Board explains to the Scout where further attention is needed. The Scout can then address those areas as a follow-up. Once addressed, the Board approves the rank advancement.

**Important Note: The Eagle Board Of Review must be completed within 3 months of the Scout's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday unless special approval from Council BSA (can extend to 6 months) or National BSA is obtained.**

## 4 Conducting A Troop 870 Board Of Review

A Troop 870 Board of Review should generally be 15-20 minutes long, but no longer than 30 minutes. The Scout should be in full uniform.

The Board first greets the Scout and helps them get comfortable (ask some warm-up questions if needed). The Chair then asks the Scout to recite one or more of the Scout Oath, Law, Motto or Slogan. A retry is acceptable especially for younger Scouts.

The Board then asks appropriate questions of the Scout (see section 6 for suggested questions). Open-ended questions which allow the Scout to speak about his accomplishments, experiences and opinions are preferred. If an answer is too brief, follow-up with a "Why?" or "How?" to prompt for more details.

The Board should align the discussion with the Scout's rank and age. Higher ranked Scouts will be more focused on leadership, merit badges and service projects while lower ranked Scouts will be more focused on basic skills. Older Scouts will have a more developed appreciation of the principles of Scouting and a wider range of Scouting experiences than younger Scouts.

The Board should discuss and encourage the Scout's involvement in Scouting. This includes how the Scout is living the Scout Oath and Scout Law, his participation in their patrol and the Troop, future leadership roles and his Scouting goals.

The Board should also discuss how his patrol and the Troop are working, collect feedback on activities that are working/not working/desired for the future and get a sense of whether key Scout skills and knowledge are being learned and retained.

At the conclusion of the Board of Review, the Scout is asked to leave the room. The Board then confirms through unanimous consensus whether the Scout has successfully completed the Board of Review. The Scout is asked back into the room and the Chair informs the Scout of the Board's decision. If confirmed, there are general congratulations and the Scout is encouraged to continue advancing. If not confirmed, the Board explains to the Scout where further attention is needed.

**Important note: The Board of Review is not a retest of the rank requirements. The Scout has already successfully completed each requirement. Scouts cannot fail a Board of Review because they have not retained the knowledge/skills associated with a particular requirement. It is Troop 870's responsibility to provide instruction and activities which repeatedly incorporate the requirements thereby enabling them to be learned and retained. Consequently, it takes an exceptional circumstance such as the Scout not participating in the discussion or disavowing one of the fundamental principles of Scouting (for instance, do a Good Turn Daily) to fail a Board of Review.**

Next, the Chair fills in the [Board Of Review Feedback Form](#) with the help of the rest of the Board and provides it to the Advancement Chair. The Advancement Chair provides a copy of it to the Scoutmaster and Committee Chair for incorporation into the Troop's scouting program.

## **5 What Every Scout Should Know**

### **5.1 Scout Oath**

On my honor I will do my best  
To do my duty to God and my country  
and to obey the Scout Law;  
To help other people at all times;  
To keep myself physically strong,  
mentally awake, and morally straight.

### **5.2 Scout Law**

As Scout is:

Trustworthy,  
Loyal,  
Helpful,  
Friendly,  
Courteous,  
Kind,  
Obedient,  
Cheerful,  
Thrifty,  
Brave,  
Clean,  
Reverent.

### **5.3 Scout Motto**

Be Prepared.

### **5.4 Scout Slogan**

Do a good turn daily.

## 6 Suggested Questions

### Warm-Up:

- What do you do for fun?
- What is your favorite subject in school?
- Who is your favorite teacher? Why?
- How do you help around the house?

### Scouting:

- What is the Scout Oath?
- What is the Scout Law?
- What is the Scout Motto?
- What is the Scout Slogan?
- What does it mean to be/do (pick something specific from the Oath, Law, Motto or Slogan)?
- Can you provide an example of doing that in your everyday life?
- How have you incorporated the principles of Scouting into your everyday life?

### Rank Requirements:

- What did you learn as part of (pick a requirement they have completed)?
- Have you/how could you apply that knowledge/skill in your everyday life?
- What Merit Badges have you completed? How did that go?
- What Merit Badges would you like to complete next?
- What are you interested in doing for an Eagle project?
- Have you taught a skill to a younger Scout? If so, how did that go?
- Have you signed off on a younger Scout's rank requirement? If so, how did that go?

### Activities:

- Have you participated in a recent outing? How did that go?
- What did you like/dislike about that outing?
- Have you participated in a recent Troop service project? How did that go?
- How did Summer Camp go?

**Key Skills:**

Why is it important to bring all of the Boy Scout 10 Essentials on each outing? Do you do this?  
How did you ensure you packed the needed items for your last outing? Did you forget anything?  
Why is "Leave No Trace" important? Do you do this?  
Have you had an opportunity to start and care for a fire? If so, how did that go?  
Have you been a Grubmaster for an outing? If so, how did that go?  
Have you prepared a meal during an outing? If so, how did that go?  
Do you have a first aid kit? If so, have you had to use it? If not, would you be comfortable using it?  
What knots do you know how to tie? Could you teach them to another Scout?  
Do you have a Totin' Chip? Have you used an ax or saw? If so, how did that go?  
Have you used a map and compass on an outing? If so, how did that go?  
Why is the EDGE method useful? Have you used it? If so, how did that go?

**Troop:**

What do you like/dislike about Troop Meetings?  
What do you like/dislike about the Troop?  
What are your favorite/least favorite Troop activities?  
What Troop activities would you like to see more of?

**Patrol:**

How well is your Patrol working together?  
What do you like/dislike about your patrol?  
What are your favorite/least favorite patrol activities?  
What patrol activities would you like to see more of?

**Leadership:**

Have you held a leadership position in the Troop or patrol? If so, how did that go?  
What leadership position would you be interested in the future?

**Wrap-up:**

Are you getting the support you need from the senior scouts, Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters?  
Do you have any questions about how to advance rank, earn a merit badge, sign-up for an outing, etc.?  
What are your plans for advancing to the next rank?

## 7 Board Of Review Feedback Form

<b>Date</b>	
<b>Scout</b>	
<b>Chair</b>	
<b>Other Reviewers</b>	
<b>Scout Feedback</b>	
<b>Instructions</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Fill in the top part of form</li> <li>2. Conduct the Board of Review             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discuss and encourage involvement in Scouting</li> <li>- Discuss what the Scout has learned</li> <li>- Gather feedback on his patrol, Troop and Scouting in general</li> <li>- Should take 15-20 minutes, but no longer than 30 minutes</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. Summarize Scout Feedback</li> <li>4. Provide to Advancement Chair</li> </ol>