

## **RANK ADVANCEMENT – BOARDS OF REVIEW**

### **FOR SCOUTS AND THEIR PARENTS**

#### **What is a Board of Review?**

The Board of Review occurs after a Scout has had his Scoutmaster conference. It is the last step towards earning a rank advancement. A Board of Review consists of at least three and no more than six Troop 797 Committee members.

#### **What is the value of a Board of Review?**

The Board of Review is an opportunity for the Scout to receive praise and encouragement from adults other than his parents, Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters. Ultimately, should the Scout aspire to achieve his Eagle rank, the Boards of Review that he had along the way will strengthen his performance and preparation for the ultimate Board of Review, the district review that finalizes his earning of the Eagle rank.

#### **How does a Scout arrange a Board of Review?**

When a Scout is ready for his Board of Review, the Scout will sign up on the pad in the back of the meeting room. A Board of Review will most likely take place on the next Advancement Night.

#### **What does a Scout need to know for his Board of Review?**

The scout should be prepared to discuss his recent scouting experiences and how he sees himself living up to the Scout Oath and Scout Law in daily life.

#### **How can a Scout prepare for his Board of Review?**

- Memorize the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. (Some leeway can be given to scouts at the Tenderfoot and Second Class ranks. But for First Class rank and higher, the Scout Oath and the Scout Law must be memorized).
- Make sure your uniform is complete. See below for details.
- Bring your *Boy Scout Handbook* so the Committee members can check that your requirements have been fulfilled and also so they can sign your book upon completion of the Board of Review.

#### **How does a Scout dress for his board of review?**

Scouts are required to be in full Class “A” uniform for a Board of Review. Full Class “A” uniform for Troop 797 consists of official Scout class “A” shirt, official Scout pants/shorts and belt, and official Scout socks. The Scout’s rank and position patches must be correct, and his shirt must be tucked in.

## **BSA Troop 797 – Marietta Ga.**

### **FOR THE ADULTS WHO SERVE ON BOARDS OF REVIEW:**

Adults who serve on Boards of Review must be registered members of Troop 797 and have completed and turned in an Adult Volunteer form.

### **Purpose of a Board of Review:**

Each Board of Review should include a discussion of ways in which the Scout sees himself living up to the Scout Oath and Law in his everyday life. The purpose of the Board of Review is **not to retest** a Scout's skills, but rather to ensure that he has completed all of the requirements, to determine the quality of his troop experience, and to encourage him to advance toward the next rank.

### **What the Board can do to help a Scout during the review:**

- make every effort to put the Scout at ease
- smile and create a friendly and non-threatening atmosphere
- offer praise for work already accomplished
- offer encouragement for the work that will need to be done to advance to the next rank
- ask the Scout to consider or prepare a plan for how they will progress to the next rank

## BSA Troop 797 – Marietta Ga.

### THE AGENDA OF A BOARD OF REVIEW:

#### Formalities:

- Be sure the scout is in full uniform (For Troop 797 this consists of official Scout class “A” shirt, official Scout pants/shorts and belt, and official Scout socks. The shirt must be tucked in and position and rank patches must be correct).
- Introduce all members of the Committee to the Scout.
- Be sure that all requirements for the rank have been signed off in the *Boy Scout Handbook*.

#### Interview the Scout:

(more detail can be found for each rank on later pages in this manual, including specific suggested questions, length of interview, etc)

1. First, always ask the scout to recite the Scout Law and/or Oath. If the scout is Tenderfoot or Second Class you may say these with the scout if he needs help. Ask the Scout to give an example of how he obeys the Scout Oath and Law in daily life.
2. Have a conversation with the Scout about his scouting and life experiences.

#### **Suggestions for questions that can be asked and topics that can be discussed for all ranks:**

Ask open-ended questions about the Scout's recent scouting adventures.

Ask the Scout about his school and family activities.

If he were Scoutmaster for a day, what one thing would he change about the troop?

What does he like most about Troop meetings/outdoor activities?

What new things did he do/learn on his latest campout/service project/troop meeting?

What did he learn/feel in giving service to others?

Why is being a Boy Scout important to him?

What are his goals in Scouting?

Talk about the requirements that will need to be met in order to achieve the next rank.

## BSA Troop 797 – Marietta Ga.

### **The decision of the Board of Review:**

**Ask the scout to leave the room:** Upon completion of the Board's conversation with and questioning of the Scout, the Scout will leave the room while the board discusses whether or not to advance the scout to the next rank.

### **The Board of Review can decline to advance a Scout.**

In keeping with the Boy Scouts of America objective of encouraging all Scouts, the Board of Review does not "fail" scouts. Rather, if necessary, the Committee members can suspend the Board of Review. At that time, the Board members will point out what needs attention or to be fixed and then suggest a date when the Scout and Board of Review should reconvene (the next advancement night). The Committee members will provide the scout with a written notice of what must be done in order to be successful at the next Board of Review. A Committee member must notify the Committee Chair and the Advancement Chair regarding the deficiency(ies).

Examples of why a Board of Review may be suspended:

- Scout is not in full uniform as defined in the Formalities section above
- Scout does not have his *Boy Scout Handbook*
- Scout has not memorized the Scout Oath and Scout Law
- Requirement(s) have not been signed off in the *Boy Scout Handbook*
- Scout treats the Board of Review frivolously or is not prepared to answer even the most basic questions asked.

The decision of the Board must be unanimous; if the Board cannot reach a unanimous decision, the Board needs to immediately contact the Committee Chair (or Assistant Committee Chair) who will make a final decision.

**Invite the scout back into the room:** Notify him of your decision and either congratulate him or instruct him on how to be successful at his next board of review.

**Initial the Scout's Handbook:** If the decision is made to advance the scout, all committee members present initial the scout's handbook at the Board of Review line.

## **WHAT EVERY SCOUT SHOULD KNOW**

### **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.

### **Scout Law:**

As Scout is ...

Trustworthy,

Loyal,

Helpful,

Friendly,

Courteous,

Kind,

Obedient,

Cheerful,

Thrifty,

Brave,

Clean,

Reverent.

### **Also good to know:**

**Scout Motto:** Be Prepared.

**Scout Slogan:** Do a good turn daily.

## **BSA Troop 797 – Marietta Ga.**

### **TENDERFOOT (1 of 2)**

#### **Procedure:**

The approximate time for this Board of Review should be 15-20 minutes.

This is the Scout's first experience with a Board of Review. The process may require some explanation on the part of the Committee members.

The first few questions in the Board of Review should be simple. The Board of Review should try to gain a sense of how the Scout is fitting in to the Troop, and the Scout's level of enjoyment of the Troop and Patrol activities.

Encourage advancement to 2nd Class. Point out that the Scout may have already completed many of the requirements for 2nd Class.

**See next page for sample Board of Review questions specific to this rank.**

## **BSA Troop 797 – Marietta Ga.**

### **TENDERFOOT (2 of 2)**

#### **Sample Questions:**

**First, ask the scout to recite the Scout Law and/or Oath.** You may say these with the scout if he needs help. Ask the Scout to give an example of how he obeys the Scout Oath and Law in daily life.

#### **Personal Data**

When did you join the Troop? Why did you join Boy Scouts?

What grade are you in? What school?

What hobbies do you have?

#### **What Do You Think?**

What is a good turn? What good turns have you done lately?

Why do we whip or fuse the ends of a rope?

Why do you think there are physical fitness requirements (push ups, pull ups, etc.), and a retest after 30 days, for the Tenderfoot rank?

What troop outings have you attended? What do you think of them?

Tell us about your last Troop campout. How would the first aid skills you must know for Tenderfoot help on a campout?

What does it mean to be prepared?

Where did you go on your hike? If you were on a hike and got lost, what would you do? How would you avoid poison ivy/oak?

Where did you learn to fold the American flag? Tell us about your first experience with this skill.

What does "On My Honor" mean to you?

What do you think people expect from you as a Boy Scout?

#### **Teamwork**

What is the name of your patrol? Do you have a flag? What did you do at your last patrol meeting?

What is the Buddy System that we use in Scouting? When do we use it?

Do you feel that you and your patrol are getting along?

Is there anything you would like to see changed in the patrol or troop meetings?

#### **The Big Picture**

What do you like best about Scouting?

How has Scouting been what you thought it would be?

How has Scouting been different than what you thought it would be?

Have you taken part in any recent service projects? Which ones? What did you do to help?

What are your long term plans in scouting?

When do you plan to have the requirements completed for Second Class?

## **BSA Troop 797 – Marietta Ga.**

### **SECOND CLASS (1 of 2)**

#### **Procedure:**

The approximate time for this Board of Review should be 15-20 minutes.

This is the Scout's second Board of Review. The process should be familiar, unless it has been some time since the Board of Review for Tenderfoot.

Questions should focus on the use of the Scout skills learned for this rank, without retesting these skills. The Board of Review should try to perceive how the Scout's patrol is functioning, and how this Scout is functioning within his patrol.

Encourage work on the remaining requirements for 1st Class; many of the easier ones may have already been completed.

**See next page for sample Board of Review questions specific to this rank.**

## **BSA Troop 797 – Marietta Ga.**

### **SECOND CLASS (2 of 2)**

#### **Sample Questions:**

**First, ask the scout to recite the Scout Law and/or Oath.** You may say these with the scout if he needs help. Ask the Scout to give an example of how he obeys the Scout Oath and Law in daily life.

#### **Personal Data**

How old are you?

Do you have a hero? If so, who and why?

Do your friends at school know you're in Scouts?

What part of scouting interests you the most?

#### **What Do You Think**

In the Scout Oath, what does "I will do my best" mean to you?

What are your long term plans in scouting?

Do you ever do more than one Good Turn in a day? What kinds? How do you help out at home/school?

What point of the Scout Law is the most important to you? Why?

One of the requirements for Second Class is to participate in a program regarding drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse. Tell us what you learned.

Do you have a favorite youth or adult leader? If so, what makes that person a good leader?

The Scout Motto is "Be Prepared". What does it mean to you? What is in your personal first aid kit?

Where did you go on your last troop campout? What did you enjoy the most? Why?

What does it mean to say, "A Scout is Trustworthy"?

Tell us about the flag ceremony in which you participated.

Did you attend summer camp with our Troop last summer? What did you enjoy?

What do you think it means to be a Second Class Scout? What should people expect of you?

#### **Teamwork**

What did you do for you one (1) hour of service required for Second Class? What did you think of the project? What other service have you done?

Is there any part of the patrol program that you would like changed? How would you make these changes? What is the benefit of these changes?

#### **Your Progress**

What requirement for this rank was the hardest? Easiest?

Have you started earning any merit badges? If yes, which ones and why did you choose them?

When do you plan to complete the requirements for First Class?

Have you had a chance to cook outdoors? What did you like about it?

What outdoor skills do you like best? How are a compass and a map of the area useful on a campout? What have you learned about handling woods tools (axes, saws, etc.)?

## **BSA Troop 797 – Marietta Ga.**

### **FIRST CLASS (1 of 2)**

#### **Procedure:**

The approximate time for this Board of Review should be 20 minutes.

By this point the Scout should be comfortable with the Board of Review process.

The Scout should be praised for his accomplishment in achieving 1st Class (particularly if he joined Boy Scouts less than a year ago).

In achieving the rank of 1st Class, the Scout should feel an additional sense of responsibility to the troop and to his patrol.

The 1st Class rank will produce additional opportunities for the Scout (Order of the Arrow, leadership, etc.).

Merit badges will begin to play a role in future advancement to the Star and Life ranks. Encourage merit badge work if it has not already begun.

**See next page for sample Board of Review questions specific to this rank.**

## **BSA Troop 797 – Marietta Ga.**

### **FIRST CLASS (2 of 2)**

#### **Sample Questions:**

**First, ask the scout to recite the Scout Law and/or Oath.** Ask the Scout to give an example of how he obeys the Scout Oath and Law in daily life.

#### **Personal Data**

What grade are you in? What do you like about school? What is your favorite subject?

#### **What Do You Think**

What is your most favorite part of Scouting? Least favorite?

To you, what does it mean to "Do my duty to God"?

What point of the Scout Law is the hardest for you to live up to?

If you were in charge of planning and preparing a dinner for your next campout, what would you select? Why?

Why are merit badges a part of Scouting?

How does a Scout fulfill his "Duty to Country"?

As a 1st Class Scout, what do you think the Star, Life, and Eagle Scouts will expect from you on an outing?

What do you tell your friends about the things you learn and do in Scouts?

What does "On my Honor" mean to you?

#### **Teamwork**

How does your Patrol function as a team? What part do you take in helping your Patrol?

Tell us about your last campout with the Troop. Where did you go? How did you help with meal preparation? Did you have a good time? (If no, why not?)

How do you apply teamwork in your home? With friends?

What scout skills have you taught to the younger Scouts?

#### **Your Progress**

What merit badges do you have? Which merit badge was the most valuable to you? Why?

How many Troop meetings do you attend per month?

For this rank you met with a civil employee and discussed your constitutional rights and obligations. Who did you meet with, and what did you get from your talk

Why is it important for you to know how to transport a person who has a broken leg? Why is it important for you to be able to recognize local plant life?

What was the most challenging requirement for this rank?

Have you had an opportunity to use any of your first aid knowledge? How?

#### **The Big Picture**

What are your plans for your progress toward Star?

Who was Lord Baden-Powell?

If you had the opportunity to add or delete one (1) requirement for this rank, what would it be and why?

What effect has Scouting had on your life?

## **BSA Troop 797 – Marietta Ga.**

### **STAR (1 of 2)**

#### **Procedure:**

The approximate time for this Board of Review should be 20 minutes.

With the Star rank, emphasis is placed upon service to others, merit badges, and leadership. Scout skills remain an important element for the Star Scout; however, the emphasis should be on teaching other Scouts these skills.

Explore how the Star scout can assist with leading his patrol and troop. Attempt to understand how the Scouting philosophy is becoming part of the Scout's life.

Often the Star rank is a place where Scouts "stall out". Encourage the Scout to remain active, and participate fully in his patrol and troop. If the Scout appears to be looking for additional opportunities, suggest leadership positions such as Den Chief or Troop Guide.

**See next page for sample Board of Review questions specific to this rank.**

## **BSA Troop 797 – Marietta Ga.**

### **STAR (2 of 2)**

#### **Sample Questions:**

**First, ask the scout to recite the Scout Law and/or Oath.** Ask the Scout to give an example of how he obeys the Scout Oath and Law in daily life.

#### **Personal Data**

What other activities do you participate in besides Scouts?

What sort of impression do you think you give other people about Scouting?

How do you help out at home? Do you do it to "chip in" or earn money?

#### **What Do You Think**

What does the statement, "A Scout is Trustworthy" mean to you as a Star Scout?

What do you think the role of a Star Scout is in relationship to younger scouts?

What does it mean to say "A Scout is Loyal"?

How would you get a Scout to do an unpleasant task?

How have the Scout skills that you have learned helped you in a non-Scouting activity?

Why do you think a Scoutmaster's Conference is required for advancement in rank?

What do others have a right to expect of a Star Scout?

What point of the Scout Law is the most important to you? Why?

The Scout Slogan is "Do a Good Turn Daily". What type of "Good Turns" do you do?

#### **Teamwork**

Do you hold a leadership position in the troop now? If so, which one and what are your responsibilities? If no, which position(s) have you held? Tell me a short story about your time as a leader.

What service project did you work on to earn your required hours for this rank? What was your job on the project?

#### **Your Progress**

Which six (6) merit badges did you earn for this rank? Tell us about them.

What was the most interesting and/or unique requirement you have had in a merit badge?

How many Troop outings have you attended in the last three months? Tell us about them.

While working toward Star did you learn anything that you would like to pass on to the younger Scouts? What?

What have you learned in Scouting that might help you as an adult?

#### **The Big Picture**

What is your goal for reaching Life Scout? What is your long term goal in Scouting?

What do you feel the troop can do most to help the younger Scouts so they will make it to Star and beyond?

If you could make one change in the merit badge program what would it be?

What type of career interests you? Have you looked into earning a related merit badge?

## **BSA Troop 797 – Marietta Ga.**

### **LIFE (1 of 2)**

#### **Procedure:**

The approximate time for this Board of Review should be 20 - 30 minutes.

The Life rank is the final rank before Eagle. The Life Scout should be fully participating in the Troop, with emphasis being placed on leadership in the unit, as well as teaching skills and leadership to the younger Scouts.

Merit Badge work should be a regular part of the Scout's career. Scouting values and concepts should be an integral part of the Scout's daily life.

At this point, the Scout is starting to "give back to Scouting" through leadership, training of other Scouts, recruiting, keeping Scouts active in the program, etc.

Explore suggestions for improving the program.

**See next page for sample Board of Review questions specific to this rank.**

## **BSA Troop 797 – Marietta Ga.**

### **LIFE (2 of 2)**

#### **Sample Questions:**

**First, ask the scout to recite the Scout Law and/or Oath.** Ask the Scout to give an example of how he obeys the Scout Oath and Law in daily life.

#### **Personal Data**

How are you doing in school? What do you like the most about it?

#### **What Do You Think**

How does Scouting influence your interactions with people?

What is leadership? What is your current (most recent) leadership position within the Troop?

What particular challenges does it present?

Outside of Scouting, tell me about a time when you have had to be a leader. How did it make you feel afterward?

Other than your parents, who do you think has influenced your life the most? Why? Whose life do you think you have the most influence over? Why?

What does "A Scout is Brave" mean to a Life Scout?

In this fast paced time of great stress, what should "Be Prepared" mean to a Life Scout?

Why do you think that the three "Citizenship" merit badges are required for the Eagle Rank?

The Scout Oath refers to "Duty to Self"; what duty do we have to ourselves?

How can you personally help keep up the Scout Spirit in the Troop?

What does "Duty to God" mean to a Life Scout? How do you fulfill your duty?

What should others be able to expect from you as a Life Scout?

What does "On My Honor" mean to you?

What is the most difficult part of the Scout Oath and Law for you to live up to in your daily life?

How do you overcome it?

#### **Teamwork**

How many outings have you been on in the last year? Which did you like the most and why?

Which service projects did you work on for the rank of Life? What did you do? Why do you think that Star and Life Scouts are required to contribute so much time to service projects?

What do you like most about the Patrol Method? Least?

#### **Your Progress**

Why do you think that a Board of Review is required for rank advancement?

What additional merit badges did you earn for Life? Which merit badge did you enjoy the most?

Why? Have any of the merit badges you have earned led to hobbies or possible careers?

What was the most important thing you learned while working toward Life Scout?

#### **The Big Picture**

Have you begun to think about an Eagle Service Project? What are you thinking about doing?

When do you think you will do it?

What do you think you can do to help younger Scouts?

Which scouting skill do you like the most? Why? Least? Why?