



Boy Scouts of America

# JPL Troop 509

Est. 1952

La Cañada Flintridge, CA

jpltroop509.org



## Rank Advancement Overview

Rank advancement is how you make progress on the Scouting Trail. Each step along the way will challenge you with new knowledge and skills. There are four steps of advancement:

### 1. The scout **Learns**

Read your Boy Scout Handbook to determine what you must do for each requirement. Participate in troop and patrol meetings and outings to complete these requirements. Your patrol leader is a good source of information about rank requirements and troop operations.

### 2. The scout is **Tested**

When you have completed one or more rank requirements, you must demonstrate that you can do what is required. This can be at a troop meeting or on an outing.

Have an authorized scout approve your completion of the requirement. Only if he signs and dates the appropriate box in the back of your Handbook are you approved.

**First Class scouts and patrol leaders do not sign off rank requirements. The only scouts authorized to approve Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class rank requirements are current or past troop instructors, senior patrol leaders, assistant senior patrol leaders or junior assistant scoutmasters, and troop guides who are Star or Life rank.**

If you have any problems ask the senior patrol leader for help.

### 3. The scout is **Reviewed**

When you've completed all of the requirements for a rank, print a Scoutmaster Conference – Board of Review form from Forms tab of the troop's website, fill it out, and request a scoutmaster conference. See the Advancement tab of the troop's website for more information about the scoutmaster conference.

After you pass the scoutmaster conference, ask the troop guide for your patrol to arrange a board of review for you. See the Advancement tab of the troop's website for more information about the board of review.

When you have passed the board of review, have the board members sign the back of your Scout Handbook at the bottom of the last page listing the requirements for the rank. Also have them sign and date your Scoutmaster Conference – Board of Review form. You are this new rank as of this date.

Submit your completed Scoutmaster Conference – Board of Review form to the scoutmaster.

### 4. The scout is **Recognized**

When the scoutmaster receives your completed Scoutmaster Conference – Board of Review form, your rank advancement will be registered with the San Gabriel Valley Council office and your new rank badge will be ordered.

At the troop's next court of honor you will be awarded your rank badge.

Have your new rank badge sewn onto your uniform replacing your old badge.

### The Troop's Advancement Program

Many troops operate a totally adult-run advancement program, where only adults test, approve and sign-off rank requirements in the scout's Handbook, and only adults serve on boards of review for every rank. But our troop has upper-rank scouts, not adults, run the advancement program for the lower ranks because all scouts gain much more than they would if adults ran it. The scout-led approach helps lower-rank scouts build relationships with the upper-rank scouts, and it gives upper-rank scouts opportunities to learn and practice leadership.