

What to expect at the Board of Review

A Board of Review is a conversation with three to four adults, usually Troop 870 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.

How should you prepare? There are some basics for all ranks. First, remember that while you'll be the only scout with the adults asking you questions, the reviewers want to be helpful and friendly. They will check for complete uniform - shirt (with insignia), merit badge sash, Scout neckerchief, slide, belt and pants (or shorts and socks). They will need to see your initialed scout book (everything for the rank should be initialed, except the Board of Review), and you'll need to be able 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. 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.

Additional expectations for Tenderfoot Rank

Tenderfoot reviews take 10-15 minutes. Be prepared to talk about your patrol and all the campouts you've been on, including if you attended camp over the summer.

Additional expectations for Second Class Rank

Second class reviews take 15-20 minutes. Review tenderfoot and second-class skills, and be prepared to talk about how you are following the Scout oath and law in your daily life. You will be asked about outings and service projects, and the reviewers may ask about your plans for Scouting in the summer and for next year.

Additional expectations for First Class Rank

First class reviews take 20 minutes. Review tenderfoot, second class and first class skills, and be prepared to talk about the meaning of the words in the Scout oath and law, as well as how you follow those words at home and at school. You'll be asked about service projects and outings, and how you plan to be a leader as a First Class Scout.

Additional expectations for Star Rank

Star reviews take 25 minutes. Review the skills you reviewed for your Scoutmaster Conference. However, for Star, the emphasis is more on leadership, service, and the values of Scouting, rather than the skills themselves. You should think about how you live the Scout oath in your daily life. You should take care to 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 leadership 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, and future plans for badges, service projects and leadership positions.

Additional expectations for Life Rank

Life reviews take 35 minutes, and sometimes more. 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? What does "clean in the outdoors" and "conservation minded" mean?

Also, be 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.