



# BSA Troop 8

## Junior Scout Advancement Guide

On behalf of the Advancement Committee - welcome to BSA Troop 8! Scouting is an amazing organization for mentoring, leading, and developing your son in moral, mental, and physical dimensions using a proven 108 year tradition. The road to Eagle is long and traveled by many, but upon completion your son will join the men who have distinguished themselves both in the BSA and beyond.

Some notable Eagle Scouts include:

Neil Armstrong <i>Astronaut who flew on the Gemini 8 and Apollo 11 missions; test pilot and naval aviator; first human to set foot on the Moon</i>	Lawrence S. Bacow <i>President of Harvard University, former President of Tufts University and former Chancellor of Massachusetts Institute of Technology</i>
John Beck <i>National Football League quarterback for the Miami Dolphins and Baltimore Ravens</i>	Peter Agre <i>Medical doctor, professor, and molecular biologist who was awarded the 2003 Nobel Prize in Chemistry</i>
Michael Bloomberg <i>Mayor of the City of New York (2002–2014); businessman and the founder of Bloomberg L.P.</i>	Jay Bybee <i>Federal judge on United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit</i>
William DeVries <i>Cardiothoracic surgeon who performed the first successful permanent artificial heart implant</i>	Christopher Fogt <i>Olympic bobsledder</i>
Robert Gates <i>CIA director (1991–1993); President of Texas A&amp;M University (2002–2007); Secretary of Defense (2006–2011);</i>	William Henry Keeler <i>Cardinal Archbishop of Baltimore</i>
Robert McNamara <i>Business executive; Secretary of Defense (1961–1968); President of the World Bank (1968–1981)</i>	Michael Moore <i>Academy Award-winning (2002) film director, author, social commentator, and comedian</i>
Mike Pantelides <i>Mayor of Annapolis (2013-)</i>	John C. Whitehead <i>Chairman of the National September 11 Memorial &amp; Museum; former chairman of Goldman Sachs</i>

Key to attaining the Eagle Scout and the rewards and successes beyond is achieving rank advancement, and this is why the BSA Troop 8 Advancement Committee is so dedicated to your son's success. We break down advancement into two segments: Junior Scout Advancement (Scout to First Class) and Senior Scout Advancement (Star | Life | Eagle). This guide is to help new scouts and parents navigate advancement of Junior Ranks, to set them up for full participation in the BSA Troop 8 scouting program, and to make significant headway to achieving Eagle Scout.



There are seven ranks in scouts; the first four are covered here. Scout rank covers that basic information you need to know to be a good Scout. You should earn Scout soon after joining the troop. The ranks of Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class cover skills in camping, hiking, cooking, first aid, nature, fitness, aquatics, citizenship, and leadership. It usually takes about 18 months to achieve First Class Scout. You can work on requirements from all three ranks at the same time, but you must complete the ranks in order.

Guide	Comment
<i>Initial:</i> Obtain the Boy Scout Handbook in the first few weeks of joining the Troop.	This is your official record of rank progress in Scouting. You should get this book with your welcome packet upon registration with the Troop. If you are transferring from another Troop, bring your BSA Handbook to an Advancement Committee Member (Mr. Eddy / Mr. Shimkaveg) for review and documentation.
<i>Initial:</i> Review the Rank Requirements	Parents & Scouts together should review Rank Requirements for Scout Rank through First Class. The scout and his Patrol Leader should make a plan for achieving these requirements.
<i>Weekly:</i> Facilitate Rank Advancing Activities	SPL and Patrol Leaders will plan out Monday night Troop meetings to support rank advancing activities.
<i>Monthly:</i> Attend Scoutmaster Conferences and Boards of Review (as needed)	On a monthly basis, Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmasters and Adult Leaders are available to host Scoutmaster Conferences and Boards of Review. Check the Troop Calendar for scheduled times.
<i>Monthly:</i> Prior to Outings	In the weeks prior to an outdoor activity, scouts need to engage the Patrol Leader and discuss the upcoming trip and activities available to be accomplished. Scouts should volunteer to take on those responsibilities that will allow them to achieve these signatures.
<i>Semi Annual:</i> Progress Update	Twice a year or upon request, the Advancement Committee will update the Scout, the Patrol Leader and the parent of the scout on the scout's advancement progress.
<i>Periodic:</i> Resource Engagement	Periodically check the Troop 8 Website for links and resources to help plan and engage the resources the Scout needs for advancement.
<i>Periodic:</i> Merit Badges	Troop activities (summer camps / monthly outings) and external classes (Merit Badge Days) will arise that support achievement of various merit badges; participate in these activities as you can but importantly, ensure they are documented with your patrol leader. Don't focus too much on all of the merit badge requirements at this stage. If a Scout wants to start a merit badge, he must fill out a Blue Merit Badge Card and get Scoutmaster signature. This registered card must be filed with the Advancement Committee for tracking.