

Parent Handbook 2024

Scouts BSA

Troop 416



Brandon, Mississippi

Chartered By

Reservoir Scouting Association

Table of Contents

Welcome	3
Contact Us	4
Organization	5
Leadership	6
<i>Youth</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Adults</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Troop Committee</i>	<i>7</i>
Getting Started in Troop 416	9
Activities	10
<i>Troop Meetings</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>Monthly Outings and Campouts</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Service Projects</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Fundraisers</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Summer Camp</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>High Adventure</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Order of the Arrow</i>	<i>13</i>
Annual Dues	14
Advancement	15
<i>Scoutmaster Conference</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Board of Review</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Merit Badges</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Court of Honor</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Eagle Scout Advancement</i>	<i>18</i>
Merit Badges	19

Welcome to the Boy Scouts of America and Troop 416! By becoming a parent of a Scout, you are starting your son out on the great adventure that is Scouting, an important and rewarding endeavor that you will share with him. Your son's interest and accomplishment will be in direct proportion to your participation with him. We encourage you to become involved in the troop in a leadership or support role. All the adults that are involved with the troop are volunteers, and parents of current or past Scouts.

This handbook is meant to smooth your transition into Scouts BSA and Troop 416, and the following pages will answer many questions you may have. This handbook is not a replacement for The Boy Scout Handbook. It is meant to supplement The Boy Scout Handbook and to provide specific information on our troop. Other information, including the Troop 416 Bylaws, troop calendar, forms, and helpful links, can be found on our website at www.bsatroop416.com.

The Scouting program has three aims or purposes that shape the program: character development, citizenship training, and physical and mental fitness. The Scout Law is:

A Scout is
Trustworthy
Loyal
Helpful
Friendly
Courteous
Kind
Obedient
Cheerful
Thrifty
Brave
Clean
Reverent

If you're asking yourself, "Why should we get involved with Boy Scouts?" think about what you would like your son to be when he grows up—and those 12 words. We are involved because we want our sons—and other boys—to reap these benefits of Scouting.

Welcome! We're glad to have you join us on our Scouting journey!

Contact Us: Adult Leaders Troop 416

Primary:

Mike Lowery
Scoutmaster
662-647-1322
irad8u@gmail.com

Trey Curry
President
337-992-9226
tcurry@aol.com

Andy Tuccio
Troop Committee Chair
601-906-3061
atuccio@godwin.com

Secondary:

Daniel Boyd
Committee Member
601-624-5884
oldtoyboyd@gmail.com

Susan Byrd
Advancement
601-613-3893
susan.byrd@earthlink.net

Christian Cowan
Treasurer
601-942-3224
christian@christiancowanbuilder.com

Chris Flaherty
Assistant Scoutmaster,
Health & Safety Officer
601-988-8752
Cflaherty@cityofpearl.com

Jamie Glenn
Committee Member
601-937-1453
jglenn718@icloud.com

Mike Hood
Committee Member
662-816-7802
mhood@mcl.ms.gov

Charlie Murray
Asst Scoutmaster
601-209-0230
charlietriguy@gmail.com

David Myers
Asst Scoutmaster
601-209-0230
Dmyers1861@gmail.com

Tommy Nichols
Committee Member
601-540-7109
tommynichols@hotmail.com

Katy Pacelli
Fundraising
601-506-3306
katypacelli@gmail.com

Vito Canizaro
Asst Scoutmaster
601-317-1695
Canivito2000@hotmail.com

Buddy Sharp
Asst Scoutmaster
601-906-5552
Buddy.sharp@gmail.com

Keith Simpson
Committee Member
601-941-9261
kwsdmd@gmail.com

Organization

BSA Structure

Troop 416 is one of many troops within the Strong River District, comprised of units in Rankin, Scott, and Simpson counties. The Strong River District is part of the Andrew Jackson Council, along with four other districts that represent central Mississippi. Andrew Jackson Council is one of eight councils in Mississippi, and is part of the Southern Region, headquartered in Irving, Texas. This is one of four regions for the BSA nationally.

Charter Organization

The National Boy Scout organization charters, or “licenses” its program to a wide variety of organizations. Troop 416 is chartered by the Reservoir Scouting Association. St. Mark’s United Methodist Church provides meeting space and storage for troop equipment.

Troop Structure

The organization of a Boy Scout Troop is very different from a Cub Scout Pack. Throughout Cub Scouts and Arrows of Light, Adult Leaders plan every aspect of Pack activities and advancement. In Boy Scouts, however, the boys are responsible for almost everything: running meetings, and deciding where and what activities to do. The function of the adults is to support the boys, whether it is in direct support as an Adult Leader-- Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster-- or behind the scenes as a Troop Committee member, helping to organize and administer the planned programs.

Scouts

The boys in the Troop are organized into groups called Patrols. Each Patrol is made up of 6-10 boys, with one Scout elected by them as their Patrol Leader (PL), and another elected as Assistant Patrol Leader. New leaders are elected every six months. The Patrols may be organized in various ways: sometimes the boys are similar in age, with one or two older experienced Scouts assigned to be their Troop Guide, who act as advisors and instructors. Typically first year Scouts are in a Patrol like this, as they learn the basic skills of Scouting. After the first year, they will join another Patrol where the boys vary in ages, so that the older Scouts can help teach the younger ones, and they can expand their experience. The boys within the Patrol work together to learn new skills, play games, participate in inter-patrol contests, and go on campouts together. This is also the basis of the chain of command. If a Scout has a question, needs direction, or has missed a meeting and needs information, he should first ask his Patrol Leader. If the Patrol Leader does not have the answer, the Patrol Leader turns to the youth leader of the troop.

Leadership

Youth Leadership

The youth leader of the troop is the Senior Patrol Leader (SPL), aided by the Assistant Senior Patrol Leader (ASPL). Depending on the current size of the Troop, there may be one or two ASPLs at any given time. The ASPLs are elected by the Troop every six months, in December and May, with the positions effective January and June. At the end of his tenure, one of the ASPLs is elected into the Senior Patrol Leader position, where he serves again for six months. This gives the incoming SPL helpful experience in how the top leadership position works. The SPL presides at all troop meetings and activities. The SPL, ASPLs, Patrol Leaders, and other boys serving in positions of leadership meet monthly in the Patrol Leader's Council (PLC) to plan the activities for the troop meetings and outings for the next month.

Serving in a leadership position is a requirement for ranks beyond First Class. In addition to the elected positions of SPL, ASPL, and Patrol Leader, there are several other youth positions that satisfy the requirement who are appointed by the SPL with guidance from adult leaders. These positions include: Youth Quartermaster (helps keep records of equipment, checks equipment in/out for campouts), Historian (gathers pictures and facts about current and past activities of the troop and the Boy Scouts, present historical information about the BSA to the Troop), Scribe(keeps minutes of Troop and PLC meetings, and emails the Troop weekly on upcoming events and information), Librarian (maintains library of Merit Badge books and other literature for borrowing), Chaplain's Aide (provides a brief devotional at the close of troop meetings), Den Chief (provides guidance and support to Cub Scout den; training required and provided), Order of the Arrow Representative (communicates between the Order of the Arrow and the troop) , Troop Guide/Instructor (help Scouts and patrols meet advancement requirements through First Class, advises patrol leader) , Bugler (at campouts and ceremonies), and Leave No Trace Trainer (teaches Leave No Trace principles, and ensures Troop follows the principles on outings).

Adult Troop Leadership

The adult troop leadership consists of two main groups: The Scoutmaster and Assistant Scoutmasters, and the Troop Committee.

The **Scoutmaster** and **Assistant Scoutmasters** work directly with the Scouts to help them advance, learn new skills, accompany the Scouts on outings, and stand as consultants and advisors during meetings. The Scoutmaster is ultimately responsible for a quality program that provides opportunities for advancement, leadership experience, community service, and outdoor experiences.

The **Troop Committee** supports the Scoutmaster and the Troop leadership in program planning, advancement, and management and operation of the Troop. The Committee is led by the Committee Chairman, who works with the President of the Reservoir Scouting Association and other adult leaders to approve troop programs and activities planned by the PLC, provide support for those activities in the way of transportation, logistics, reservations, and adult leadership. The Committee is also responsible for financial issues, assisting with fundraising and long-term planning, troop equipment, advancement records, Boards of Review, developing community service programs, and conducting the Charter renewal process.

Troop Committee positions may include:

Committee Chair: Responsible for seeing all functions delegated, coordinated and completed.

Advancement Chair: Maintains troop advancement records, prepares reports for Council.

Secretary: Record keeper, takes/maintains Committee meeting notes.

Treasurer: Deposits and disburses funds for troop; maintains financial records.

President: Liaison between the Troop and Reservoir Scouting Association.

Transportation Chair: Coordinates transportation needs for outings and summer camp.

Fundraising Chair: Organizes fund raising projects.

Service Projects Chair: Organizes service projects.

Membership Chair: Promotes Troop 416 to boys and adults to increase membership and adult leaders. Assists with BSA applications.

Webmaster Chair: Maintains website.

Quartermaster/Equipment Chair: Obtains needed equipment for troop; supervises Youth Quartermaster in checking equipment in/out for campouts.

Activity/Outings Chair: Logistics coordination, making camp reservations

Training Chair: Informs adults of available Council or District sponsored training opportunities. Responsible for Youth Protection Training within troop.

Summer Camp Coordinator: Collects registration forms and fees for summer camp. Coordinates with Health Officer to ensure medical forms obtained and up to date.

New Patrol Advisor: Works with Troop Guide and Patrol Leader for youngest patrol to ensure smooth transition into Boy Scouts.

Grubmaster: Coordinates cook teams and menus for troop meetings, plans menu for Adult Leaders for campouts.

Board of Review Chair: Responsible for ensuring necessary number of adult leaders available for Boards of Review.

Public Relations: Promotes Troop 416 via newsletters and flyers. Works in conjunction with Webmaster, Fundraising, and Service Project chairs to promote their programs.

Health and Safety Officer: Collects and maintains BSA Medical Forms for all Troop 416 Scouts and leaders. Provides forms to trip leaders for troop outings.

The troop committee meets quarterly, and all parents are encouraged to attend these meetings, however, voting on troop matters is restricted to members of the Troop Committee. To become a Troop Committee Member, simply register as an adult member of Scouts BSA by filling out an application, taking an online Youth Protection Training class, and a yearly fee of \$75 to the Council. Currently several people juggle multiple positions. The intent of the Committee is to spread the work of the Troop around and not to burden a few adults with an impossible task. The adults who give their time, talent, and support to make Troop 416 successful are volunteers. Parents can help in a number of ways. We are always seeking new ideas and fresh visions, and your input is needed! Attend some Troop meetings, and talk to the Scoutmaster or one of the other Adult Leaders. Parents are needed for everything from helping as a part of a cook team, providing transportation for outings, to serving as committee members, Merit Badge Counselors, Assistant Scoutmasters, or other adult leadership positions. We want so much for our sons; it takes a whole team to make that happen! Our contact information is found on page 4.

Getting Started with Troop 416

There are just a few things needed to get started with Troop 416! There are application forms for both youth and adults for Scouts BSA, available at meetings from the Scoutmaster or the Advancement Chair. The BSA Annual Health and Medical Record Form is also required, and may be found on our website at www.bsatroop416.com, or at www.scouting.org. Parts A and B need to be completed for participation; part C is required for longer camping trips like summer camp and backpacking and require a physical and a physician's signature. Additionally, for adults, Youth Protection Training is a must, and can be completed online easily at <https://my.scouting.org/>; print your certificate at completion and turn in. Youth and adults are not permitted to go on any troop outings without these forms on file. Everything else you need may be found at the [Scout Shop](#): The Scouts BSA Handbook, and the official Scouts BSA Uniform. You may shop online at www.scoutshop.org, or visit our nearest scout shops in Meridian, Hattiesburg, Monroe, Biloxi, Birmingham, or Memphis.

The Handbook. The Scouts BSA Handbook is your son's guide throughout Boy Scouts. Both parents and Scouts should become familiar with the contents of the book, as it will provide answers to many questions. In the back you will find requirements for ranks, with places for an adult leader or Life Scout to sign off and date at their completion, as well as places to log activities, service hours, and campouts. Over time, this book will become a valuable record of your son's achievements. Scouts should take good care of their books, as they use them for several years, and the records of achievement they contain are critical to each Scout's personal advancement through the ranks. Scouts need to bring their books to every meeting and campout. A cover is good idea to help protect the book.

The Uniform. There are two types of Uniforms: Formal Class A, and Activity Class B.

The Class A uniform includes: Official BSA long or [short sleeved uniform shirt](#) with [green shoulder loops](#), official BSA uniform pants or shorts, [Official BSA olive colored web belt with buckle](#), official BSA olive-colored socks. For Courts of Honor and other special occasions, the [Troop 416 Red and Gold neckerchief](#) with BSA slide or woggle is worn, as well as the [Merit Badge Sash](#) (once Merit Badges are earned) or OA Sash. The proper position of all badges and patches is found in [The Scouts BSA Handbook](#) and [cover](#). The patches needed are the [Andrew Jackson Council](#), the [World Crest](#), and numerals 416. The shoulder loops and Troop 416 number patch are provided by the Troop. If you need assistance in acquiring a full Class A uniform, please inform the Scoutmaster or Committee Chairman. The Class A uniform is worn to all Troop meetings, Boards of Review, rank advancements, and whenever the Troop is traveling. A Scout is expected to wear his uniform with the shirt buttoned and tucked in. The Activity Class B uniform is the Troop

416 t shirt, or any official BSA t shirt, with neat and clean pants, jeans, or shorts. The first Troop 416 t-shirt is also provided by the Troop; additional shirts may be purchased.

Activities

Troop Meetings

Troop 416 meets Monday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 in the Christian Life Center (CLC) at St. Mark's United Methodist Church. We meet weekly from August through May. Our pre-meeting activity is dinner, served by rotating cook teams of parents. This is a time to visit and catch up before the meeting starts at 7:00. The building is usually open at approximately 6:15, and dinner is served from 6:30 until 7:00. The Scoutmaster is available for Scoutmaster Conferences during this time, and Boards of Review may be conducted during this time as well. Boys can also check in at the computer to have their completions logged in for rank advancements.

Each Troop Meeting follows the same basic agenda:

- Opening Ceremony: The Scout Oath, Scout Law, and the Pledge of Allegiance are recited
- Business: Announcements and discussion of upcoming events, review of calendar.
- Patrol Time: a menu may be planned for an upcoming campout, or they may work on a Scout skill within each patrol.
- Troop Time: Everyone comes together for an organized, or unorganized activity.
- Closing: a word from the Scoutmaster, the Chaplain's Aide, and a Benediction.

The patrols rotate each month in responsibility for setting up of the meeting room, leading the opening ceremony, and cleaning up when the meeting is over. These assignments are posted on the Scout Bulletin Board in the hall. Each Scout is expected to be prepared with pencil and paper to write down important information (trips, dates, costs) from troop meetings to keep their parents informed of events.

The Patrol Leaders Council meets separately from the Troop Meeting once a month to plan the next month's activities, usually the last Monday of each month at 6:00 prior to the start of the regular Troop meeting activities.

Monthly Outings and Campouts

Troop 416 plans for a campout or activity every month. The activities are planned by the PLC in August and December for the following semester, in consultation with the adult leaders, the Rankin County School District calendar, and the Andrew Jackson Council calendar. Activities often include canoe trips and weekend hiking trips, as well as District Camporees and Council campouts. There is typically a fee for each campout of \$10-20, announced in troop meetings prior to the outings. For campouts, the boys camp together in patrols and plan and cook their own meals. Planning is done during patrol time at troop meetings prior to the trip, where the boys will also plan a trip to the grocery store with a set budget to buy the food that they need. For campouts, we typically meet at the church Friday evenings at 5:30 p.m. for a 6:00 p.m. departure, and return on Sunday after lunch to late afternoon. Times may vary depending on the distance we may travel, and a canoeing day trip may require a very early Saturday start. Meeting and departure times will be announced at Troop meetings prior to the trip.

Troop equipment as well as individual camping gear is carried in a large troop trailer. The troop provides a Patrol Box, and a variety of cooking equipment and supplies (ice, coolers, camp stove, propane, pots/pans/utensils, and cleanup). The Patrol Leader of each patrol coordinates with the Youth and Adult Quartermasters to select their equipment and pack their boxes a few days before the campout. A general equipment list is on the Troop website.

Adults are welcome to come along on any trip or campout! However, while adults on campouts may offer advice and guidance, they **may not** actively assist the Scouts in performing their tasks, such as pitching tents and flies, hanging hammocks, cooking meals, and working together with their patrols. Help should be solicited from the other boys in the patrol or troop. Adults and boys camp separately from one another, with the boys grouped together, and the adults apart. Scouts may choose to share tents. Camping adults must be registered with BSA as an adult member and pay the \$75 membership fee, and have completed Youth Protection Training (available online, can complete in 30 minutes).

The Troop owns a number of Troop tents. These tents will typically hold two Scouts, and are to be used for Troop campouts only. These help the Troop to look uniform and tidy for campsite inspections. Each patrol is responsible for the tents that they check out. Each Scout is responsible for his sleeping bag and other personal gear; also his tent or hammock if it is a backpacking or other higher adventure outing. **Before making any expensive purchases, please talk with some of the adult leaders.** They will have valuable advice on what to buy and what to avoid, as well as good stores and websites. As a Scout becomes more experienced and does more camping and hiking, he may want more advanced gear—a better backpack, boots, tent or sleeping bag. There is a lot of equipment available for loan

from the adult leaders so that you can try things out. Typically, we hold a Gear Expo in March, where the adult leaders bring their gear to show to the Scouts, so they can look at and inspect a variety of equipment.

Service Projects

Troop 416 participates in several service projects each year, and we encourage Scouts to provide service to their community. In the past we have helped with the global Stop Hunger Now! a food packaging event, as well as helping individuals in need, remodeling a house to be wheelchair accessible, assisting with a household move, and participated in projects at Rosie's Garden a community garden in Rankin County. Participation counts toward rank advancement, and those working on their Eagle Scout service projects count on the help of their troop members.

Fundraisers

We also participate in troop fundraisers several times a year. We do not participate in popcorn sales. We have done a variety of fundraisers in the past, from delivering food and bussing tables at Five Guys Burgers and Fries, selling tickets for Belk's annual charity sale, to selling camp cards, a popular discount card, and the end of the year car wash in May.

Summer Camp

The Troop attends a week-long summer camp every summer, usually the first full week of June. The location of the camp varies each year. This summer we will go to Camp Sequoyah near Delta, Alabama. For many years we have gone to Camp Comer in northeast Alabama near Ft. Payne, where we were for summer camp in 2023. Summer Camp 2018 and 2021 found us at Camp Rainey Mountain in northeast Georgia, and the staff was impressive and the setting beautiful. In 2017 and 2022, we attended our own Camp Hood in Hazlehurst, where they recently completed new shooting ranges, rappelling towers, and zip lines. In 2016 we attended Skymont, a Scout camp between Chattanooga and Nashville, Tennessee.

Summer camp is a great opportunity for each Scout to work on rank advancement and to earn merit badges. The camps usually provide special programming for new Scouts that help them complete requirements for the early ranks, and most have some high adventure opportunities for the older Scouts as well. The cost of summer camp varies depending on the location, but is typically around \$350 - \$450 per Scout. A deposit is paid to the camp to

secure our desired week and campsite, and then a payment schedule is set up with monthly payments spread out during the winter and early spring. The balance is due a month prior to camp. A current BSA Heath Form with Parts A, B and C must be on file with our troop or a Scout will not be allowed to attend the camp. Our typical mode of transportation to camp is by rental 15 passenger vans in combination with parent volunteers, some of whom may stay at camp for a few days or the whole week.

High Adventure

Longer trips are usually arranged during Spring Break and in July. The Spring Break trip may be a few days of backpacking in Arkansas, or canoeing in the Okefenokee Swamp in Georgia. The July trip is a high-country backpacking trip, usually the second week of July. This trip is typically five days of backpacking in Colorado or northern New Mexico, and requires that the boys have participated in several previous backpacking trips, where they have satisfied troop leadership of their capabilities to carry a substantial pack and be responsible for an extended trip, both physically and mentally.

Order of the Arrow

The Order of the Arrow (OA) is Scouting's national honor society. The OA recognizes youths (and adult leaders) who exemplify the Scout Oath and Scout Law in their daily lives. OA members must have the rank of First Class or higher, and must have taken part in a minimum of 15 days and nights camping in a two-year period, including a 6 day and 5-night camping experience at a local or national BSA facility. Eligible Scouts are elected to the OA by a yearly troop election, subject to the approval of the Scoutmaster.

Annual Dues

Troop dues covers the Scouts BSA National membership fee, Troop re- chartering fees, badges and awards, upkeep and replacement of Troop equipment, the camping fees for some campouts, and Troop insurance. For the 2024 -2025 school year, dues are \$200 per Scout. Our membership renewal, or Recharter, with the Andrew Jackson Council and BSA National occurs in June, so the dues balance is to be paid by the last meeting in May. In order to receive Merit Badges and Rank advancements, a Scout has to be a paid member in the Scouts BSA database.

We anticipate dues increasing every few years due to increases from the Andrew Jackson Council for the improvements to Camp Hood. Please make all checks payable to BSA Troop 416 and bring to Mr. Cowan at the Troop meeting. There are scholarships available if needed upon request. Please see the Scoutmaster or Committee Chairman.

If your Scout is joining after crossing over from a Pack, the dues for the spring semester are \$75, which includes shoulder loops, 416 patch, and one Class B t shirt in addition to the items named above.

Advancement

Advancement is the responsibility of the Scout. Through participation in Troop meetings, outdoor activities, and working on his own, the Scout has an opportunity to work on badges and skills that will help him advance through the scouting ranks. Advancement requires that the Scout learn skills, earn merit badges, participate in service projects, and serve in leadership positions. As the Scout advances, he earns recognition by being awarded badges of rank. The first of these is the Scout Rank, which the Scout earns by learning some things about Boy Scouts: The Oath, Law, Motto, and Slogan; how the Troop and patrol work and how he advances; a few basic knots and knife safety. Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First-Class ranks require work mainly on the basic outdoor and first aid skills every Scout needs to know. It is permissible to work on any of the requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class, or First Class while at a lower rank, but they must be obtained in sequence. There are no time limits.

The Star and Life ranks require work on merit badges, leadership, and service to the community. The Eagle rank continues to work on merit badges, leadership, and service to the community. An approved Eagle project that provides a lasting improvement for the community must also be completed, with all Eagle requirements completed before his eighteenth birthday.

All ranks (except Scout) also have a requirement that specifies that a Scout must show Scout Spirit. How the Scout behaves at meetings and during outings is usually the greatest measure of his Scout Spirit and will affect the decision of the Scoutmaster to sign off on this requirement and permit advancement. Scout spirit also includes behavior outside of Scouting.

As the requirements for rank are completed, the Scout must present himself with his Boy Scout Handbook to a Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster or Life Scout. They will make sure the requirement has been met, and will initial and date the item in the boy's BSA Handbook. For Scout through First Class rank requirements, a Scout of Star or Life rank may also sign off on skills. The Scout should be ready to prove he really has completed the requirement before he asks someone to sign his book. A parent **may not** sign off on any

requirements. Periodically the Scout should have the Advancement Chair or Assistant to update his records in Troopmaster (the Troop advancement software) including requirements, campouts, service hours, and any other activities. After the requirements for a rank are completed, and the information turned in to Advancement, the Scout must schedule a Board of Review. Once this is successfully completed, the Scout earns his rank. The rank will not be given if there are monies owed on the Scout's account. The Scout must wear the Class A uniform with appropriate rank insignia and have his Handbook with him for the Scoutmaster Conference, Board of Review, and to receive the new rank, which is presented at the troop meeting following the Board of Review.

Scoutmaster Conference

One of the requirements for all ranks is a Scoutmaster Conference. This may be done at any time while a Scout is working on a particular rank, but it will be more beneficial to the Scout if he is nearing completion of rank requirements. The Scoutmaster is available for Scoutmaster Conferences from 6:15 to 7:00 prior to regular troop meetings. It is preferable to contact him prior to the meeting to let him know that the Scout will be requesting a conference. The Scoutmaster Conference is a time for the Scout and the Scoutmaster to sit down and talk about how the Scout is progressing towards his next rank. The Scoutmaster will ask questions about how well the Scout has learned the items required for the rank he is completing, assessing the individual needs of the Scout, helping him to set goals for his next rank, and trying to gauge the success of the troop program. These one-on-one conferences are used to encourage and help a Scout focus his attention on his continued development. These conferences are usually held prior to, or during troop meetings, but may also be held at campouts or other times as well at the Scoutmaster's discretion.

Board of Review

When a Scout has completed his requirements for rank, it is his responsibility to schedule his Board of Review. The Scout must request the Board with the Advancement Chair, and confirm that he has the requirements completed in the computer software. No more than 2 will be held on each night. The Board of Review is conducted by 3 adult leaders and is required for all ranks except the Scout rank. The Board of Review in the lower ranks may include general questions related to the skills he has learned. As the Scout advances in rank, these questions will be more centered on leadership, citizenship, and character.

Merit Badges

There are currently 138 Merit Badges that may be earned in Scouts BSA. Merit Badges are awards that concentrate on a particular field of expertise or a specific skill, and are earned by Scouts in cooperation with a Merit Badge Counselor. Each merit badge has an accompanying booklet which may be borrowed from the Troop Library if available, or purchased at the Scout Shop or online. Some Merit Badges are required before a Scout can earn his Star, Life, or Eagle rank. The Handbook has a complete listing of required and optional badges. The required badges for Eagle are: Camping, Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, Citizenship in Society, Citizenship in the World, Communication, Cooking, Environmental Science or Sustainability, Family Life, First Aid, Personal Fitness, Personal Management, Emergency Preparedness or Lifesaving, and Cycling or Hiking or Swimming.

Merit badge opportunities are also offered on the District and Council levels and at summer camp. The merit badge pamphlet on the subject should be obtained from the Troop Library, Scout Store, or online. He then arranges for a merit badge counselor, typically an adult leader with the troop or District. The counselor should be contacted before starting on requirements to plan how each one will be completed. Some counselors require the use of a Merit Badge Blue Card in which the counselor signs the blue card as each requirement is completed, and when the entire merit badge is finished. The counselor will keep his record part and give the Scout the rest which should be turned in to the Advancement Chair. Keep all your blue cards as records of completion in case of any errors. Plastic notebook pages used by baseball card collectors are a good way to store the blue cards, Merit badge cards, and rank completion cards for safekeeping. Advancement will enter the data into Troopmaster and register the completion with the Council. Merit Badges are presented to the Scout at the next Court of Honor.

Court of Honor

Troop 416's Courts of Honor are held three times a year, in August, January and May. Potluck dinner by all is served, and families are invited to celebrate. At the Court of Honor, Scouts are recognized for their achievements in the past months: rank advancement cards and merit badges are awarded.

Eagle Scout Advancement

Once the rank of Life Scout is obtained, the Eagle rank is the next goal. The Scout must obtain the National BSA Eagle Scout application and an Eagle Service Project Workbook, available online or at the Council office. In addition to the required merit badges and fulfillment of the leadership responsibilities, an Eagle candidate must plan, develop, and provide leadership in the completion of a significant service project on his own. The Eagle Service Project can be completed at any time: the Scout does not need to complete all merit badges or other requirements first. All Eagle Scout Service projects must include a developed plan that meets the approval of the Scoutmaster, the organization benefiting from the project, and the Council. The Service Project must demonstrate leadership of others and provide service to a worthy institution other than the Boy Scouts. This may be a religious institution, school, or the community. The Workbook contains all BSA requirements and limitations. The Project should be valuable to the community and a challenge for the Eagle candidate. It does not have to be an original idea, but the Eagle Candidate must do all of the planning for the project and may not use someone else's plan. The project workers may include members of Troop 416 or other Scout units.

All required Merit Badges, the Eagle Scout Service Project, the Service Project write up, the Statement of Life Goals, all required letters of recommendation, and the Eagle Scout Application must be completed and turned in to the Council office before the Scout's 18th birthday. The Eagle Scout Board of Review must be held within six months of the Scout's 18th birthday. Scouts that attain the rank of Eagle Scout will generally have an individual Court of Honor, an Eagle Ceremony.

Merit Badges

Scouts can learn about sports, crafts, science, trades, business, and future careers as they earn merit badges. There are 138 merit badges, and any Boy Scout or Varsity Scout, or any qualified Venturer or Sea Scout may earn any of these at any time. Bold, italicized are Eagle required badges. Online, check out <https://www.scouting.org/programs/boy-scouts/advancement-and-awards/merit-badges/> for detailed information on all the merit badges. www.meritbadge.org has very helpful (but not required) worksheets for all the merit badges.

1. American Business
2. American Cultures
3. American Heritage
4. American Labor
5. Animal Science
6. Animation
7. Archaeology
8. Archery
9. Architecture
10. Art
11. Astronomy
12. Athletics
13. Automotive Maintenance
14. Aviation
15. Backpacking
16. Basketry
17. Bird Study
18. Bugling
19. **Camping**
20. Canoeing
21. Chemistry
22. Chess
23. **Citizenship in the Community**
24. **Citizenship in the Nation**
25. **Citizenship in Society**
26. **Citizenship in the World**
27. Climbing
28. Coin collecting
29. Collections
30. **Communication**
31. Composite Materials
32. **Cooking**
33. Crime Prevention
34. **Cycling**
35. Dentistry
36. Digital Technology
37. Disabilities Awareness
38. Dog Care
39. Drafting
40. Electricity
41. Electronics
42. **Emergency Preparedness**
43. Energy
44. Engineering
45. Entrepreneurship
46. **Environmental Science**
47. Exploration
48. **Family Life**
49. Farm Mechanics
50. Fingerprinting
51. Fire Safety
52. **First Aid**
53. Fish & Wildlife Management
54. Fishing
55. Fly Fishing
56. Forestry
57. Game Design
58. Gardening
59. Genealogy
60. Geocaching
61. Geology
62. Golf
63. Graphic Arts
64. Health Care Professions
65. **Hiking**
66. Home Repairs
67. Horsemanship
68. Indian Lore
69. Insect Study
70. Inventing
71. Journalism
72. Kayaking
73. Landscape Architecture
74. Law
75. Leatherwork
76. **Lifesaving**
77. Mammal Study
78. Metalwork
79. Mining in Society
80. Model Design and Building
81. Motor boating
82. Moviemaking
83. Music
84. Nature
85. Nuclear Science
86. Oceanography
87. Orienteering

- 88. Painting
- 89. Personal Fitness**
- 90. Personal Management**
- 91. Pets
- 92. Photography
- 93. Pioneering
- 94. Plant Science
- 95. Plumbing
- 96. Pottery
- 97. Programming
- 98. Public Health
- 99. Public Speaking
- 100. Pulp and Paper
- 101. Radio
- 102. Railroading
- 103. Reading
- 104. Reptile and Amphibian Study
- 105. Rifle Shooting
- 106. Robotics
- 107. Rowing
- 108. Safety
- 109. Salesmanship
- 110. Scholarship
- 111. Scouting Heritage
- 112. Scuba Diving
- 113. Sculpture
- 114. Search & Rescue
- 115. Shotgun Shooting
- 116. Signs, Signals, and Codes
- 117. Skating
- 118. Small Boat Sailing
- 119. Snow Sports
- 120. Soil & Water Conservation
- 121. Space Exploration
- 122. Sports
- 123. Stamp Collecting
- 124. Surveying
- 125. **Sustainability**
- 126. **Swimming**
- 127. Textile
- 128. Theater
- 129. Traffic Safety
- 130. Truck Transportation
- 131. Veterinary Medicine
- 132. Water Sports
- 133. Weather
- 134. Welding
- 135. Whitewater
- 136. Wilderness Survival
- 137. Wood Carving
- 138. Woodworking