

# The basis for this presentation stolen from South Florida Council, BSA

## Original slides

- <http://www.sfcbsa.net/Advancement/BoRStandardsPPTPresentation/tabid/106/Default.aspx>

## Changes (by Scott Hartog 4/21/09)

- Deleted Eagle BOR slides
- Changed path to document in last slide to point to Troop 6 website BOR training document (from CFC)
- Added slides on Questions about God
- Added slide on Poorly Prepared Scouts
- Added highlights for important points and common misperceptions.
- Other minor edits and re-phrasing



# Conducting a Board of Review

**South Florida Council  
Advancement Committee Standards  
(Edited by Scott Hartog for CFCBSA Troop 6)**

South Florida Council, BSA  
Council Advancement Committee  
Chairman, Elliot S. Grossman, Ph.D.  
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# Introduction

- The purpose of this presentation is to review how a Board of Review should be conducted.
- The standard applies to Boards of Review held by Troop 6 for rank advancement other than Eagle.

# Purpose of a Board of Review

The members of a Board of Review should have the following objectives in mind:

- To make sure the Scout's Handbook records the "signed off" completion of the requirements for the rank in the back of the Handbook.
- To evaluate the quality of the experience that the Scout is having in the unit.
- To encourage the Scout to progress further.
- The Board of Review is an opportunity to review of the Scout's attitudes, accomplishments, and his acceptance of Scouting's ideals.

# Purpose of a Board of Review

- The Board of Review must accept the Scout's requirements for advancement as a given.
- They cannot reject a requirement that has been signed off by unit leaders.
- They can only review the requirements to be sure all were completed and signed off.

# Purpose of a Board of Review

- The Board of Review provides "quality control" on advancement within the unit.
- It provides an opportunity for the Scout to develop and practice those skills needed in an interview situation.
- It is an opportunity for the Scout to review his accomplishments.

# Other

## Purposes of a Board of Review

- Some other reasons to have a board of review may include
  - a Scout's lack of advancement
  - perceived trouble in the troop or a certain event at the last campout or troop meeting
- Ideally, a Scout should sit for a board of review every six months, whether he is advancing or not.

# The Board of Review is NOT

- **The Board of Review is NOT a retest.**
- Scout has already been tested on the skills and activities required for the rank. The skills have been challenged and reviewed during the Scoutmaster's Conference.

# The Chairman of the Board of Review

- Should ensure that all the requirements have been "signed off" in the Scout's handbook.
- Should ensure that leadership and merit badge records are consistent with the requirements for Star and Life ranks.

# Scheduling a Unit Board of Review

- The Board of Review for all ranks is conducted within the troop except for the rank of Eagle.
- The Scout (not parent) must approach the Advancement Chairperson (or BOR Delegate) to schedule his BOR.
- Each Board of Review should be scheduled in a timely manner after the Scout has completed the Scoutmaster's Conference requirement for the rank.

# Scheduling a Unit Board of Review

- The Scout's rank advancement should be recognized by the troop as soon as possible after the Board of Review is successfully completed.
- A troop's Court of Honor at a later date still can recognize the Scout's accomplishment.

# Composition of a Unit Board of Review

- Three members of the Troop Committee and zero to three observers.
- The troop Advancement Chairperson typically designates one of the reviewers as the “chairperson” of the Board of Review.
- **Relatives or guardians may not serve as members of a Scout's Board of Review.**

# Mechanics of a Unit Board of Review

- The Scout is introduced to the board by the Chairperson of the Board of Review.
- The Scout should be in full uniform -- worn properly and neatly.
- The Scout and the Board of Review members should be polite, respectful, and well mannered throughout the entire review.

# Mechanics of a Unit Board of Review

- The chairman of the Board of Review should ask the Scout to come to attention, and lead the Board with the Pledge of Allegiance.
- The Scout should recite one or more of the following (depending on the rank):
  - The Scout Law
  - The Scout Oath
  - The Scout Motto
  - The Scout Slogan
  - The Outdoor Code

# Mechanics of a Unit Board of Review

- The board members are invited to ask questions of the Scout appropriate to the rank.
  - The questions should be open-ended, offering an opportunity for the Scout to speak about his opinions, experiences, activities, and accomplishments.
  - Avoid questions which only require a simple one or two word answer.
- Sample questions are posted on the Troop 6 website for each rank.

# Mechanics of a Unit Board of Review

- A board of review should be held where the board members and the Scout are the only ones aware of what is going on.
  - There should be no possibility for embarrassing the Scout in front of others.
  - A Scout should be comfortable speaking his mind to the board.
- The time for a Board of Review should be from 15 to 30 minutes, with the shorter time for the lower ranks.

# The Nature of the Questions

- The questions for the lower ranks are simpler and generally deal with factual information about the Scout's participation in his unit, and his approach to applying the skills he has learned toward earning the rank in question.
- The questions for the higher ranks are less factual, and generally seek to aid understanding of how Scouting is becoming an integral part of the Scout's life.

# The Nature of the Questions

- Remember: It is not the point of a Board of Review to retest the Scout.
- Example valid questions
  - Where did you learn about [skill]?
  - Why do you think it is important for a [rank] Scout to have this skill?
  - What did you cook for this requirement?
  - What did you build for a camp gadget?

# Poorly Prepared Scouts

- Be aware that a Scout who is poorly prepared for the board, one who clearly has not achieved what his book says that he has, is a product, as much of his own merits as of the merits of those who have brought him the board, to those who have signed off his accomplishments without actually having them properly achieved.
- Thus, a Scout may not be as responsible for his lack of preparation as might be first assumed.
- This does not grant carte blanche to the ill-prepared Scout, but it does give the board a way to understand what must be done and to assist the Scout in doing it.

# Scouting's Obligation God

- Scouting maintains that no member can grow into the best kind of citizen without recognizing an obligation to God.
- Scouting is absolutely nonsectarian in its attitude toward the Scout's religious training. Scouting's policy is that the home and the organization of the group with which the member is connected shall give definite attention to religious life.
- In practical terms, this means that the Scout is expected to subscribe to these principles. Bear in mind that a Scout is trustworthy and further that he and his parents have subscribed to these principles when he joined Boy Scouting and that he has pledged his duty to God each time he recites or pledges the Scout Oath and Law.
- The Boy Scouts of America does not define God for a Scout, nor does it interpret God's rules.

# Asking about Duty to God

- The board of review does not serve as an inquisition into the correctness of a Scout's perceptions.
- The board of review does seek to determine whether the Scout has fulfilled his duty in a way he sees fit, keeping in mind his profession of a particular faith.
- Discussion of a Scout's religion is very appropriate at a board of review, but it should be done with respect and appreciation for the variety of faiths and beliefs in the United States.
- An open-ended question like "How do you honor the 12th point of the Scout Law?" will allow the boy to discuss his religious beliefs.
- A blunt "Do you believe in God?" should be avoided as there are some religions that do not use the name "God" for their supreme being or higher power.
- A Scout may fulfill this duty without being a member of a particular denomination or religion. In these cases, a board will want to understand, through informal discussion, what a Scout feels about this particular duty, how he sees himself in relation to his beliefs, and how he fulfills them.

# Asking about Duty to God

- It is very common for adolescent boys to question religion, particularly formal religion. If a candidate indicates that he is not certain about religion, the board should ask how he is trying address his uncertainty and to fulfill his duty to God.
- As in many questions asked at boards of review, the older the Scout, the more sophisticated the board may expect the answer to be. For a very young Scout, going to religious services regularly may be a complete answer to the question. For an older Scout, you may expect a description of service to his fellow man or the community.
- You may even find that a Scout will state his inability to meet his own expectations of duty, but that he strives nevertheless to do so. It may be that this humble answer is a sign of the greatest devotion.

See the white paper

“Board of Review Instruction Document”

<http://www.scout-troop6.org>

click on “Documents” in left panel

click on “Board of Review Instruction Document”