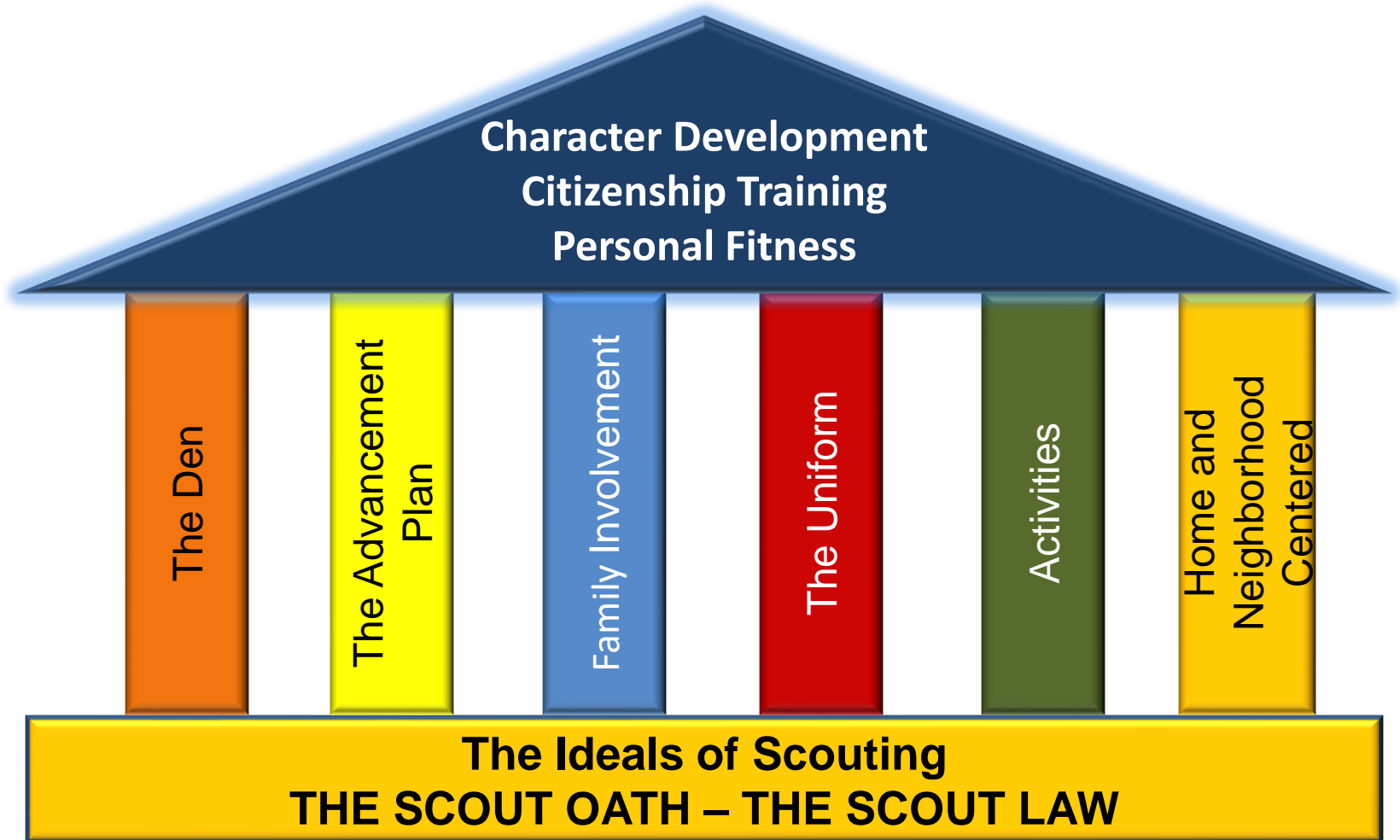


# The Parents' Guide to Crossover Cub Scouts to Scouts BSA

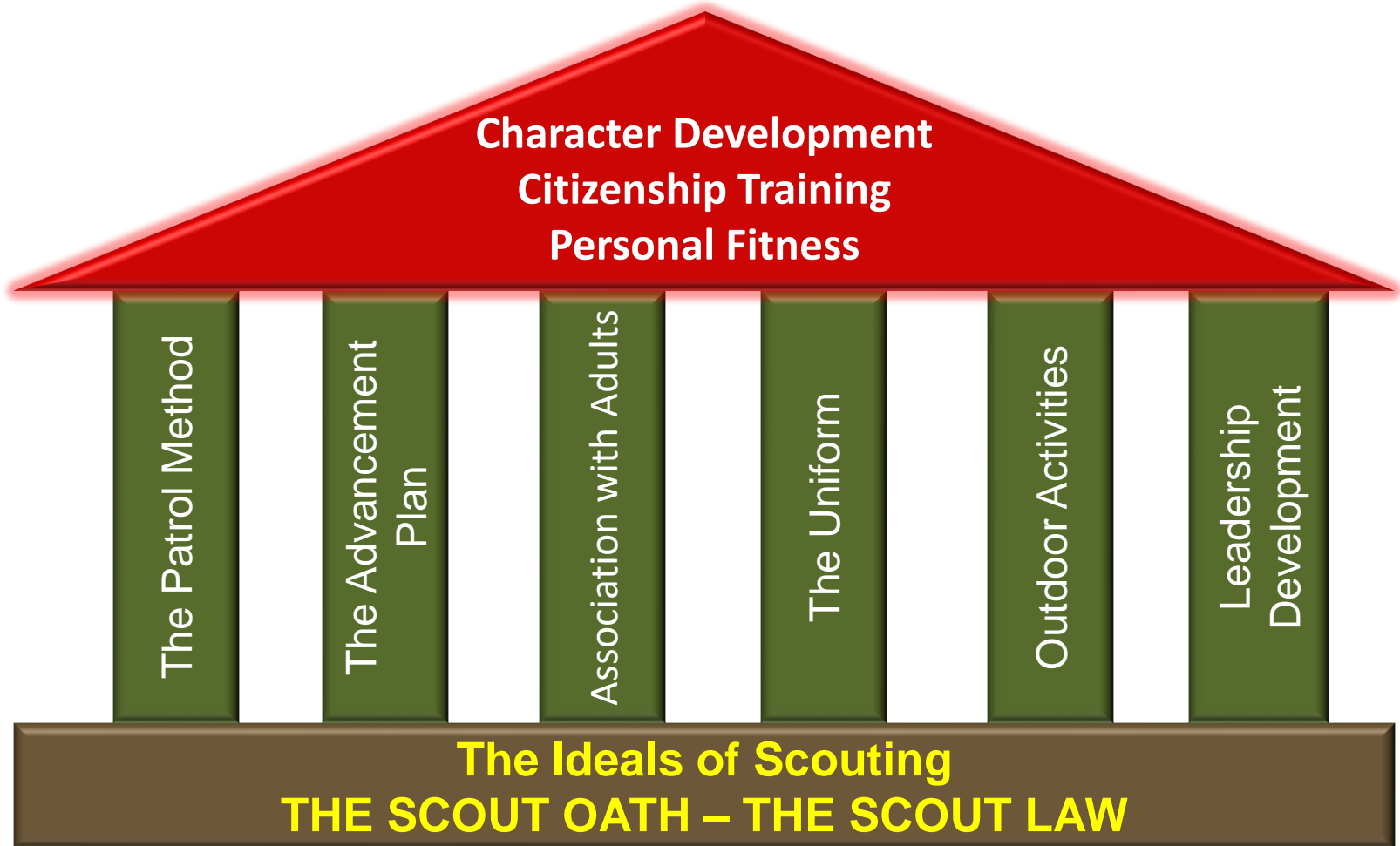


Prepared by Mark Barnes – Advancement Chair  
Pathfinder District – Greater St. Louis Area Council

# The Cub Scout Program



# The Scouts BSA Program





# Character and Personal Development



These are the youth leadership positions in the Troop. Leadership is important to advance in rank, to have a good program, and to develop as a young man. Even if the Scout does not currently hold a leadership position in the Troop, he should make sure he understands the responsibilities of those that do. Those being led should take responsibility to make sure that those they choose as leaders do their job.

# Troop Meetings

- The meetings are “Scout-Led” with the Senior Patrol Leader in charge. Each meeting generally has the following activities:
  - Opening flag ceremony
  - Meeting organizational announcements
  - Merit badge and general advancement activities (monthly)
  - Campout planning (as needed)
  - Recognition of any advancement earned that evening
  - General announcements
  - Closing circle ceremony
- The uniform (Khaki Shirt) is **REQUIRED** for every meeting and when traveling to every outing adventure.

Parents may stay for meetings but are not required.

# What to Buy

- Uniform (Khaki shirt with required patches)
  - Troop will provide troop unit patch, shoulder tabs and initial crossover kerchief and slide
- Boy Scout Handbook
- Merit Badge Sash
- Camping Equipment (not needed immediately, but eventually):
  - Sleeping bag
  - Ground pad (foam, Thermorest-type)
  - Flashlight
  - Water bottle or canteen
  - Personal mess kit
  - Rain gear
  - A very good pair of waterproof hiking shoes

# Camping and Adventure Activities

- Camping is an exciting time for the Scout, but it is also a time of great responsibility. The Scouts will be expected to take most of the responsibility by planning the trip, setting up their own camp, cooking their own food, washing their own dishes, and building their own fires. Scoutmasters and other adult leaders will always be available to provide guidance and assistance, but these trips are primarily the responsibility of the Scouts.
- Every summer, the Troop attends a weeklong summer camp. Summer camp offers each Scout advancement opportunities and outdoor challenges that he will remember for a lifetime. The summer camp program is geared for Scouts for all ages and ranks. The first year camper program is specifically designed for new Scouts and has them working on many requirements needed for ranks through First Class. There are merit badge sessions for Scouts who need merit badges to attain their rank. Besides the advancement offered at summer camp, the Scouts have many opportunities to swim, fish, canoe, hike, participate in shooting sports such as rifle and archery, make new friends and have fun. Attending summer camp is one of the most important highlights of the scouting year. No Scout should miss attending!!
- During the year the Troop will hold some special events. It may be a weekend campout, day hike, a trip to a local event or special location, or a community service project. The Scouts are expected and encouraged to participate in these events.
- Outings fall into four types of trips:
  1. Family oriented for all.
  2. Outdoors adventure for all scouts.
  3. High adventure for advanced scouts having appropriate skills.
  4. Community service activities, including Eagle Service Projects.
- There also will be at least one high adventure outing every year. In order for a Scout to participate in a high adventure outing, he may have to meet certain age or rank requirements, usually 13 years of age and/or First Class. High adventures include extended hiking trips, climbing and rappelling, extended canoeing trips, and many other exciting adventures.



# Advancement

- Rank requirements for Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class are signed off in the online tracking system, **ScoutBook**. Most of the information needed to pass these rank requirements can be found in the handbook. Taking the time to read and study a subject thoroughly is important and expected. When a Scout satisfactorily demonstrates that he has a complete knowledge of a skill or requirement, the requirement may be signed off in the handbook by a troop leader.
- A Scout is expected to perform service work for advancement as well.
- Scouts must appear before a **Board of Review** as a final step for rank advancement.
- Rank advancement is recognized at a formal ceremony called a **Court of Honor**. It is meant to be a solemn occasion focusing on each Scout's growth and achievements. All Scouts are expected to wear their full Class A uniforms, including merit badge sashes. Parents/guardians are expected to attend each Court of Honor.
- **Merit badges** are required for rank advancement from First Class to Eagle. There are more than 120 merit badges in the Scouting program and they offer Scouts an opportunity to explore areas in which they may not have engaged otherwise. A list of merit badges can be found in the Scout Handbook. There are merit badges for many areas of interest, such as sports, hobbies, careers and Scouting skills. Through merit badges a Scout learns to manage himself, his home, his health and others.

The BSA Goal is that **EVERY** Scout reaches 1<sup>st</sup> Class

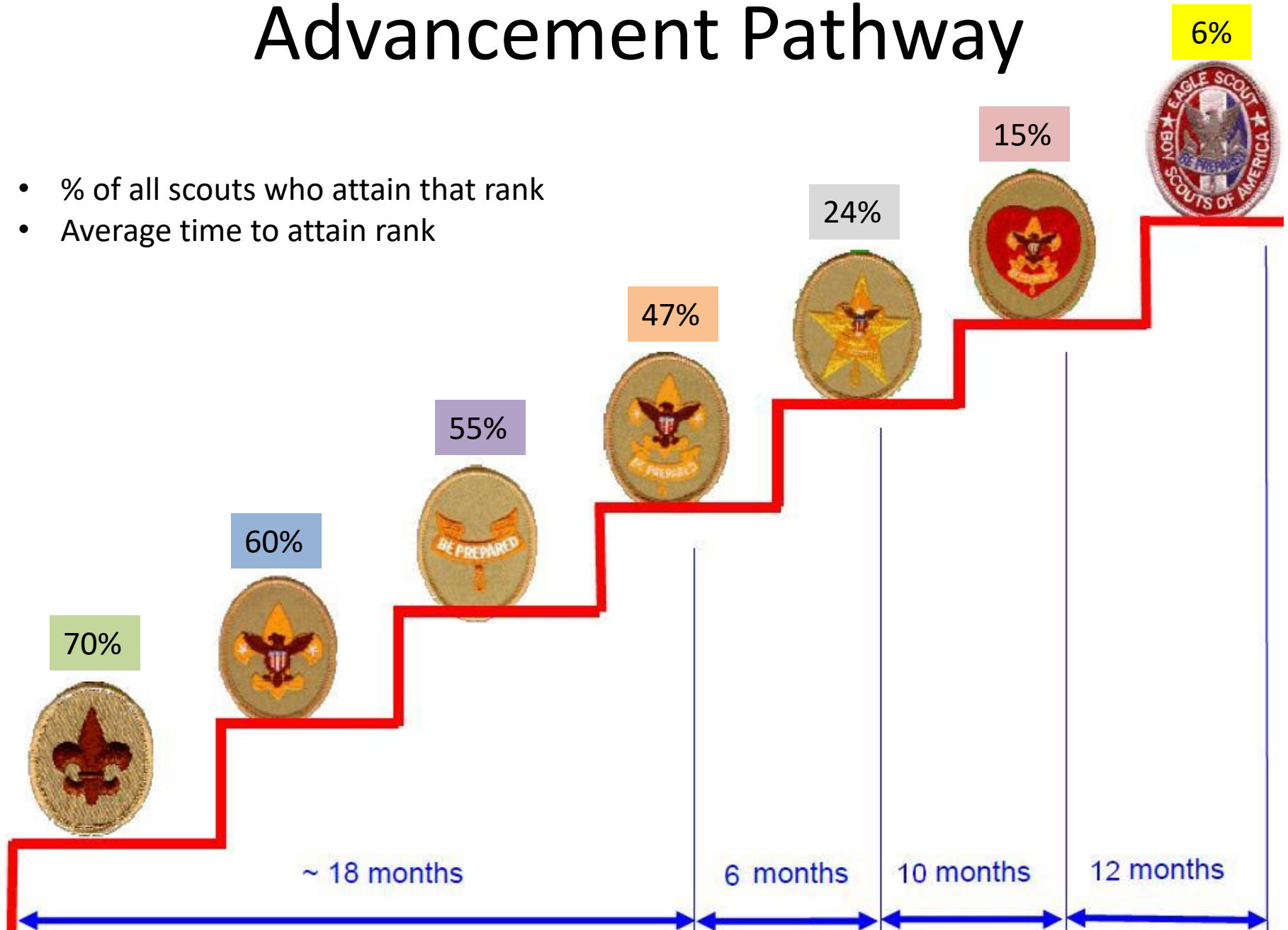


Scout Tenderfoot 2nd Class 1st Class Star Life EAGLE

Every scout should have his goal to be an **EAGLE** !  
Less than 6% make it

# Advancement Pathway

- % of all scouts who attain that rank
- Average time to attain rank



# Merit Badges

The goal of the merit badge program is to expand a Scout's area of interest and to encourage the Scout to meet and work with adults in a chosen subject. Merit badges are earned by a Scout working with a registered merit badge counselor. There are over 120 merit badges authorized by the BSA, and certain merit badges are required to make the Eagle rank. There are 3 ways to earn them: summer camp, individually or at a workshop.

The steps in working on and earning a merit badge are as follows:

- The first step in pursuing a merit badge is to find the requirements of the badge. These requirements can be found on-line at [USScouts.org](http://USScouts.org) or [MeritBadge.org](http://MeritBadge.org) or in the annual "requirements" book available through the scout store.
- A Scout then requests a Merit Badge Card and permission to work on a Merit Badge from the Scoutmaster.
- The Scout is responsible for finding the names and phone numbers of available merit badge counselors. These can be found online at the Greater St. Louis Area Council's website: <http://stlbsa.org/achievement/advancement/merit-badge-counselors/>
- The Scout obtains and reads the merit badge pamphlet. He should try to understand all the requirements before working on the badge.
- The Scout contacts the merit badge counselor to arrange for a time and place to meet and discuss the requirements for the badge.
- The Scout begins working on the Merit Badge, keeping in regular contact with his counselor. The scout should print a merit badge worksheet available for free: [http://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Merit\\_Badge\\_Worksheets](http://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Merit_Badge_Worksheets) and make notes in the [worksheet](#) as work is done. Most merit badge counselors require this worksheet to be brought to each session. The Scout learns from, and demonstrates his knowledge and understanding to the counselor. The counselor will test the Scout's knowledge and completion of the requirements.
- Once the Scout completes the requirements the Merit Badge counselor will sign off the requirements on the Merit Badge Card.
- The Scout then takes the MB Card to the Scoutmaster for his signature.
- The Scout will receive the Merit Badge at the next Court of Honor.
- Merit badges require independent work – homework and completing the worksheet. Scouts should not expect to complete all the requirements in the company of the Merit Badge Counselor. Merit Badge Workshops are held throughout the year by the various districts. Information about upcoming opportunities to earn Merit Badges will be announced at Troop meetings. Scouts also have an opportunity to earn Merit Badges at Summer Camp. Blue cards, signed by the Scoutmaster are also needed for these events – be prepared!
- When earning Merit Badges at Camps or clinics, it is often the case that all the requirements cannot be completed during the event. The preferred option is to complete any prerequisites prior to the event. Otherwise the scout will have a "partial" sign-off on the blue card. The scout can then find and work with a merit badge counselor to complete the outstanding requirements. It is very important to keep track of the blue card until it is fully signed off and turned into the Troop.
- All parents are encouraged to become Merit Badge Counselors for any of the available merit badges offered by the Boy Scouts of America. If interested, contact the Scoutmaster or Committee Chair who can provide the application form required to be sent to the local council. These forms must be submitted annually for all counselors. Meritbadge.org is an excellent resource for teaching and earning merit badges.

**It is the scout's responsibility to keep all completed cards for Eagle Rank**

# Other Parent Expectations

- Enjoy the experience with your scout!
- Complete BSA Application and Physical Exam form (found online)
- Provide Information to the Scoutmaster or one of the Assistant Scout Masters regarding problems or concerns you or your Scout may have (medical conditions, learning disabilities, medications etc.).
- Insist that unit use ScoutBook and ask for credentials to track advancement
- Provide the necessary uniform, equipment and transportation for your Scout so that he is properly clothed and equipped to participate in activities.
- Provide encouragement to your Scout and help him set and abide by priorities, which will help further his Scouting experience. Allow time to review, study and practice his rank requirements.
- Provide never-ending encouragement to your Scout in his advancement, service and commitment to the Scout Oath and Laws.
- Encourage your Scout to attend summer camp! Experience proves that new Scouts are much more likely to stay in Scouting, enjoy Scouting more, and advance more quickly by attending summer camp.
- Attend and/or support Courts of Honor, campouts, fund-raisers and other Troop activities as your time allows.

# BSA Troop ###

- Website:
- Email:
- Chartered by:
- Meetings:
- Scoutmaster:
- Troop Committee Chair:
- Asst. Scoutmaster (Advancement):
- ScoutBook Recorder:

# QUESTIONS?

