

**Troop 4 Board of Review Policy and Appeal Process
Presented to the Troop Committee
For Review on 11/7/05**

National BSA Policies Related to Boards of Review

The members of the board of review should have the following objectives in mind when they conduct the review: to make sure the Scout has done what he was supposed to do for the rank, to see how good an experience the Scout is having in the unit, to encourage the Scout to progress further.

The Scout should be neat in appearance and his uniform should be as correct as possible, with the badges worn properly. It should be the desire of the board to encourage the Scout to talk so that the review can be a learning experience for the candidate and the members of the board.

The Scout reviews what he did for his rank. From this review, it can be determined whether he did what he was supposed to do. The review also reveals what kind of experience the Scout is having in the troop. With that knowledge, the troop leaders can shape the program to meet the needs and interests of the Scouts.

The board should attempt to determine the Scout's ideals and goals. **The board should make sure that a good standard of performance has been met.** A discussion of the Scout Oath and Scout Law is in keeping with the purpose of the review, to make sure the candidate recognizes and understands the value of Scouting in his home, unit, school, and community.

The review should take approximately fifteen minutes. **At the conclusion of the review, the board should know whether a boy is qualified for the rank.** The Scout is asked to leave the room while the board members discuss his achievements. **The decision of the board of review is arrived through discussion and must be unanimous.** If members are satisfied that the Scout is ready to advance, he is called in, congratulated, notified as to when he will receive his recognition, and encouraged to continue his advancement.

If the board decides that the Scout is not ready to advance, the candidate should be informed and told what he has not done satisfactorily. Most Scouts accept responsibility for not completing the requirements properly. **The members of the board of review should specify what must be done to rework the candidate's weaknesses and schedule another board of review for him. A follow-up letter must be sent to a Scout who is turned down for rank advancement, confirming the agreements reached on the actions necessary for advancement. Should the Scout disagree with the decision, the appeal procedures should be explained to him.**

If the appropriate board of review does not recommend the applicant for the rank advancement, the decision may be appealed to the next higher level. **The Scout, his leader, or his parents may appeal the decision.** With all appeal applications, the final decision rests with the national Boy Scout Committee. **In ascending order, levels are unit, district, local council, and national Boy Scout Committee.**

On receipt of an appeal, the district or council committee responsible for advancement will provide for a prompt review to determine the facts. All parties must be interviewed either individually or as a group, but a confrontation should be avoided. A written report with all details must be prepared for the committee responsible for a decision or for forwarding to the national Boy Scout Committee, if necessary.

Troop 4 Articles of Association

Article 2

Troop Membership and Advancement

2.2 Duties of the Troop 4 Scout: It is the duty of each scout to participate in troop activities by: attending Monday night troop meetings; attending quarterly troop courts of honor; participating in troop service projects; and participating in troop activities.

2.3 Advancement: BSA requires that a scout “be active” in his troop in order to advance to Star, Life and Eagle. Troop 4 has a long history and tradition as an “outdoor” troop; seeking to provide each scout the opportunity to develop strength, confidence and self-reliance through a vigorous scout-led outdoor activities program.

2.3.1 Active Participation: **In order to advance to Star, Life and Eagle, the Troop 4 scout must show active participation in outdoor and other troop activities.**

2.3.2 Scoutmaster Conference and Board of Review: The advancing scout should be prepared to demonstrate active participation in troop activities at his Scoutmaster conference and board of review.

2.3.3 Equivalent Alternatives: If a scout is disabled or otherwise unable to participate in troop outdoor activities, he may show active participation by alternative means commensurate with his circumstances and abilities and acceptable to the Scoutmaster and the members of his board of review.

Article 4

Troop Meetings, Voting, Uniform

4.6 Uniform: **The required uniform for all regular troop meetings and Courts of Honor is the Class A uniform with neckerchief**, Class A or B to be worn otherwise as determined by the PLC with the approval of the Scoutmaster.

Article 8

Disciplinary Action

Either the Troop Executive Committee or Troop Committee Chair has the authority to investigate and take action with regard to situations that may require disciplinary action. In such a case, the Troop Committee Chair or Troop Executive Committee, as the case may be, shall proceed as follows:

8.1 The Troop Executive Committee or Troop Committee Chair may appoint a Board of Review to investigate the facts surrounding the situation or behavior. The Board of Review should be comprised of five members and consist of the Troop Committee Chair, the Scoutmaster, and other registered adult Troop Committee members.

Summary of Troop 4 Board of Review Policies Requiring Clarification:

What is a Class A uniform with neckerchief? The Articles specify that a neckerchief is required at troop meetings. The subcommittee had an e-mail discussion that concluded that shirt with proper insignia, neckerchief and BSA pants or shorts should define the Class A uniform for Troop 4. Sandals should not be allowed. The troop has a history of relaxing these standards in the summertime and the Articles support that history. The subcommittee felt that the standards should be upheld all year for Boards of Review and Courts of Honor.

What is enough “active participation” for advancement? The PLC voted unanimously in June 2005 that a scout must attend 9 out of 18 troop meetings in a six month period with a minimum of one meeting per month in order to be considered “active” for rank advancement. Because there is an allowance for “special circumstances” that “must be approved in advance” it was agreed by the subcommittee that this requirement is not overly restrictive and has the positive benefit of encouraging Scouts to monitor their own attendance record.

What does it mean to appeal a Board of Review decision at Troop 4? Generally, a Board of Review decision does not require an appeal because another BOR will follow in the next month and a scout will be able to correct a problem and pass his BOR at the next opportunity. However, the National BSA policy allows a parent or scout to appeal a BOR decision at the unit level. Our Troop 4 Articles identify a process for investigating situations that may require disciplinary action in Article 8. This process could also serve as a BOR appeal process :

The Troop Executive Committee or Troop Committee Chair may appoint a Board of Review to investigate the facts surrounding Board of Review decision being appealed. The Board of Review should be comprised of five members and consist of the Troop Committee Chair, the Scoutmaster, and other registered adult Troop Committee members. The Board of Review should first meet to discuss the facts of the situation as they are currently known. The Board of Review or a subcommittee appointed by Board Members shall then investigate the facts. For situations or behavior involving adult(s), the Board will request that the adult(s) attend a fact-finding meeting. For situations or behavior involving scout(s), the Board will request that the scout(s) and their parents attend a fact-finding meeting. The Board will then consider all information gathered during the investigative process and decide whether the BOR decision should stand or be overturned.