

Troop 360 Scoutmaster Conference Guidelines

General:

"The Scoutmaster conference is a visit between the Scoutmaster and Scout that is held each time the boy completes the requirements for a rank. The conference is a valuable opportunity for Scoutmaster to discuss with each Scout his activity in the troop and his understanding and practice of the ideals of Scouting. Together they can set goals not only in Scouting but also in his family, school and community. A Scout taking part in a Scoutmaster conference will be able to determine if he is ready to go before the board of review." - *The Scoutmaster Handbook (2010) p. 124*

"A requirement for advancement is that the Scout participates in a Scoutmaster conference, not that he "passes" the conference... if a Scout desires a board of review, he should be granted his request." - *BSA Advancement and Recognition Policies and Procedures (2010) p. 22*

"No council, district, unit or individual has the authority to add to or subtract from any advancement requirement." - *BSA Advancement and Recognition Policies and Procedures (2010) p. 20*

"The Scoutmaster conference is neither an interrogation nor a retesting of a Scout's competence. It should be an informal conversation between Scout and Scoutmaster either toward a certain goal or as a requirement for advancement. In either case, open-ended questions are good to prompt the Scout's comments. Encourage him to come to conclusions on his own; don't simply tell him what you think." - *BSA Scoutmaster Conference Training (2006) - 18-629WB.org*

Conference Guidelines:

- Ranks of Scout thru First Class require only one ASM. Ranks of Star and Life require two ASMs. Eagle and Palm conferences require the Scoutmaster and one additional ASM.
- Give the Scout your undivided attention.
- Encourage the Scout to participate in the discussion.
- Keep the setting relaxed. The tone positive.
- Keep the conversation private, but held in full view of other people.
- Conferences should last from 10 - 30 minutes, depending on rank and circumstances.

Scheduling:

A Scoutmaster conference can be scheduled at a Troop meeting, campout, at a Scout's home or other convenient location. Scoutmaster conferences will not be held at Court of Honor ceremonies or during YLC meetings.

For Scoutmaster conference requests during Troop meetings, every reasonable effort will be made to conduct the conference the same night for ranks Scout through First Class. Advanced ranks require documentation verification that may require additional time. If there is insufficient time to complete a conference during the Troop meeting, it may be scheduled for the next regular Troop meeting.

Documentation:

When possible, the Troop 360 Advancement Scoutmaster Conference Form should be used to plan and document the Scoutmaster conference. If the form is not readily available alternatives are acceptable. At a minimum the following should be documented: Scout Name, Rank Desired, Date of Conference, Name of Person conducting the conference, comments (as applicable) and the Signature of the person conducting the conference. (Signature is not required for submissions by e-mail.) This documentation should be provided to the Scoutmaster Conference Coordinator as soon as practical. Be sure to sign the Scout's book for their records.