

# Welcome to Troop 129B

## Troop Leadership

Scout Master (SM): Roe Runels

Asst. Scout Masters (ASM): Chris May, Jim Carey, John Colatosti, Guy Welch

## Troop Committee

Committee Chair: Beau Grant

Treasurers: Patrece Keeter & Amanda Treece

Advancement Chairs: Kristi Bluett and Brandie Bedard

Eagle Coordinators: Eric Ware, Kat Woodman

Charter Organization Rep: Zach Fisher

## Scouts BSA vs Cub Scouts

Congratulations on Joining Troop 129B! If you are new to scouting, below you will find the basic information to get you started. If you are crossing over from Cub Scouts, there are many differences between Cub Scouts and Scouts BSA.

The main difference between the two is how they are run. While Cub Scouts are led by adults, in Scouts, troops aim to be Scout led. Adults are here to be advisors, but the scouts are encouraged to lead each other and lead themselves along their journey to Eagle. It is each Scout's responsibility to see that they get their requirements done and get the signatures they need. This can be difficult for parents, letting their child lead themselves, but the goal of scouts is to develop leadership skills.

## Troop 129B Guide to Advancement (Based on BSA Guide to Advancement, GTA)

Advancement at the Troop level is handled differently than at the cub level. In the cubs, most advancements and loops were done as a group, at the Troop level it is more self-paced. There is usually time at every meeting to work on some advancement requirements, so it is important to **ALWAYS** bring your book. It is also up to the scout to get their book signed as needed, **not their parents**.

The highest rank in Scouts BSA is Eagle. The ranks are Scout, Tenderfoot, 2<sup>nd</sup> Class, 1<sup>st</sup> Class, Star, Life, then Eagle.

**Scout:** First rank, can be achieved almost immediately. Most of the requirements are similar to Arrow of Light in Cub Scouts.

**Tenderfoot, 2<sup>nd</sup> Class and 1<sup>st</sup> Class:** These are the early ranks that have the most requirements. These are designed to build upon each other to help a scout learn all the basics of Scouting, Fitness, First Aid, Camping, Knots, Nature, Duty to God, etc. Most of the requirements in these ranks can be worked on simultaneously, some exceptions are the fitness challenges, each one requires a separate 30-day trial, and the service hours, you cannot use the same hours for each rank. However, you can complete items such as first aid and nature in any order.

**Star, Life, and Eagle:** also known as Star and above These ranks all wear a green neckerchief with red trim. These no longer have the small requirements, these are the bigger ones that require leadership, Merit Badges and Service.

### **Who can sign your book?**

That depends on what rank you are working on.

**Scout, Tenderfoot, 2<sup>nd</sup> Class, and 1<sup>st</sup> Class:** any Scout with a **red** trimmed neckerchief, the SM, ASMs or Select Committee Members as approved by the Scout Master, but not Committee Chair, Advancement Chair, or Board of Review Coordinator, and **not your parents**.

**Star and Life:** only SM or ASMs. Not parents or committee members

**Eagle:** Different rules for Eagle, Only SM or ASM for some and the District has the final say.

### **How do you Advance?**

When you first cross over, Star and above (**Red Trim**) scouts will work with you to get all your Scout requirements signed off. Once everything but the Scout Master Conference (SMC) is completed you will bring your book to Kristi Bluett or Brandie Bedard, The Advancement Chairs (AC), **you, not your parent**. They will enter it into the computer and arrange for you to have a SMC. Don't worry, this isn't a test, it's just a conversation to see how you are doing in Scouts.

The next 3 ranks work similarly, but they also include a Board of Review (BOR) at the end of the rank. Once everything is signed, you will again bring your book to Kristi Bluett or Brandie Bedard to enter into the computer. They will again arrange a SMC plus a Board of Review. The SM conference will be similar to the previous one. The Board of Review will consist of three adults, at least one of whom is a committee member, who will meet with you and ask you questions. Again, this is not a test, we are just verifying that you are ready to move on to the next rank.

After you have your BOR for 1<sup>st</sup> Class, you will receive your **Red trimmed** neckerchief and you will then be able to sign books for the first 4 ranks.

**Star and Life** are the next 2 ranks. Their requirements include Merit Badges, Service and Leadership. These ranks may only be signed off on by the SM or one of the ASMs.

The final rank, **Eagle**, is the big one and requires a big service project along with more Merit Badges, leadership, and Troop involvement. Eric Ware and Kat Woodman are our Eagle Coordinators and will work with you on this once you reach Life.

## **Board of Review (BOR)**

The Board of Review (BOR) is the final step before earning a rank. The AC will gather 3 Troop Leaders or parents to meet with a scout to discuss their most recent accomplishments. This committee reviews the book and asks the scout about their thoughts on what they have done and how they are progressing. Once the BOR is done, they all sign and date the book and a scout is officially ranked up.

## **Merit Badges**

To earn Eagle, you must earn a minimum of 21 Merit Badges out of a possible 135. 14 of those are mandatory “Eagle Badges” listed below, the rest can be your choice. Within the Troop, there is a Merit Badge Counselor (MBC) for all the Eagle Required MBs, plus dozens of other MBs. There is a list of Troop MB Counselors on the Troop website under sign-ups as well as a list on the bulletin board by the front door. Merit Badges may only be signed off on by a Certified Merit Badge Counselor (MBC). They do not have to be in the troop, but must be registered with BSA for the MB they are counseling. The Atlanta Area Council offers many MB opportunities throughout the year, plus camp is a great way to knock them out too.

## **How Do I start a Merit Badge (MB)?**

When a scout is ready to begin working on a MB, they should first speak with the Scout Master to let him know they will be starting the MB. It is encouraged to get his approval, but not required. At this time, the SM will present them with a **Blue Card**, that he signs, to track their MB. If they will be taking a class through the council, a Blue Card will not be needed, a report will be printed out instead. MB classes taken at camp are the exception, you will work with the AC or Troop Camp Coordinator to register for these and they do not require a Blue Card.

If you already have an MBC to work with you can then proceed. If not, the SM can help steer them in the right direction within the troop or they may look for a counselor on their own. The AC can help advise on finding one too.

It is important that you do not start working on a MB without first obtaining a MB Counselor. MBC are required to follow the requirement as listed, but they may make choices on how they will accept the work. Some prefer to use the MB workbook, some choose to do the work as a

group rather than independently. You may have done some of the required work for a MB in school, but you counselor can decide if they would like to accept it or have you do the work again with them.

Once the MB is completed, the scout then presents either the Council report or their blue card to the AC to log the information in to Scoutbook. If the MB is completed at scout camp, the AC receives a report directly from camp regarding what was completed.

### **Eagle Required Merit Badges**

1. First Aid
2. Citizenship in Community
3. Citizenship in Nation
4. Citizenship in Society
5. Citizenship in World
6. Communication
7. Cooking
8. Personal Fitness
9. Emergency Preparedness or Life Saving
10. Environmental Science or Sustainability
11. Personal Management
12. Swimming, Cycling, or Hiking
13. Camping
14. Family Life