

Who Can Sign off on Rank Advancements and Merit Badges

For those who have questions regarding who is the appropriate person to sign off on your partial merit badge cards and who can sign off on rank advancements in the Scout handbook.

- The SM and ASM's are authorized to sign off on rank advancement requirements in your Scout handbook. ASM's are registered as ASM's with SHAC and have been approved based on their registration and training. Other Troop adults, including Committee members, can not sign off.
- Merit Badge Counselors (MBC) are authorized to sign off on merit badge cards. These counselors have registered to be MBC's with SHAC and have been approved based on their experience and knowledge on the specific merit badge subject. Other adults who have not registered can not sign off on MB cards with the exception of all ASM's, whether registered as MBC's or not, are allowed to sign off on **Camping, Cooking, Hiking** and **Pioneering!**

Rank Advancement Requirements

Speak with any ASM prior to Troop meeting or during game time to get Scout handbook requirements signed off. Be prepared to discuss and demonstrate the requirement. If you have completed all requirements under a rank, sign up in the red notebook in the Scout hut for your Scout Master conference and your Board of Review. Although a Scout may have worked on FCE at summer or winter camps, they have to get sign off from an ASM within that Scout's Troop. That's just the process.

Merit Badge Cards

To determine who can sign off on a particular merit badge requirement, look at the list of Troop 993 Merit Badge Counselors in the back of the red notebook in the Scout Hut. The list of Troop 993 Merit Badge Counselors can also be found on our Troop website. Look at the left sidebar at the "Troop Merit Badge Counselors" link. Once you have found a counselor, contact that person to make an appointment.

ASM's are allowed to sign off on Camping, Cooking, Hiking and Pioneering.

If the Troop does not list a MBC then any registered MBC can sign off on any merit badge IF they feel comfortable and **knowledgeable** with the subject matter.

It's usually best to have Eagle merit badges signed off by a MBC who is registered for that particular badge, but it is not essential. Any registered MBC can sign off on any merit badge.

As a last resort, if you need to use a MBC from a nearby Troop, there are instructions on our Troop website for locating a counselor from another Troop. Look at the link on the left sidebar "Locating a Merit Badge Counselor From Other Troops". Once you have found a counselor, contact that person to make an appointment.

Parents, please feel free to encourage your Scout, but allow your Scout to obtain sign off of Rank Advancements and Merit Badges on their own. This is the Boy Scout way of growing your child to become responsible young men. You'll be surprised at how quickly they catch on!

YIS