

TROOP 85

Policy on Signing-Off Completed Advancement Requirements

As requested by the Scoutmaster and approved by the Troop Committee, this statement explains Troop 85's policy on who may sign-off a Scout's completed advancement requirements.

1. Advancement requirements covered by this policy.
All rank-advancement requirements as defined by the BSA program and tracked in the individual Scout's handbook.
2. Advancement requirements not covered by this policy.
Other advancement and awards such as merit badges, religious awards, or other official BSA awards. Merit badges in particular are covered by separate regulations which stipulate who is authorized to sign-off on merit badge requirements.
3. Who may sign-off advancement requirements.
Only the Scoutmaster (SM) and registered Assistant Scout Masters (ASM) who have observed a Scout perform or demonstrate the requirement's skill(s) are authorized to sign-off the Scout's advancement requirements.
4. Reasons for this policy.
Because the SM and ASMs of Troop 85 often have more training, experience, and exposure to the Scouts than other leaders or parents, they are often better able to accurately judge whether the Scout has demonstrated the skills/knowledge covered by the requirement.
5. Exceptions.
 - a. Persons other than the SM/ASM may sign-off on advancement requirements for any Scout who has completed the requirements as part of a group instruction period taught by that person. The group instruction must have been done with the knowledge and approval of the Scoutmaster.
 - b. As appropriate, the Scoutmaster may authorize other persons to sign-off on advancement requirements.

Effective date of Policy: November 1, 2005