



Boy Scout Troop 794
Mission Hills Church
620 SouthPark Drive
Littleton, CO 80120
www.bsatroop794.org

ADULT ADVANCEMENT DECLARATION

As a parent, how can I help ensure the integrity of each Scout's advancement?

1. **Remember rank requirements are not activity check-offs**, but rather a statement of the Scout's skills and that he can be relied upon to demonstrate them at any time in the future. Bypassing the guidelines cheats the Scout of the learning he needs, and undermines the Scouting program. If, for example, you use a lax standard to sign-off a critical swimming requirement, it may later pose a life-threatening situation for the Scout when he is allowed to participate in water activities based on his rank, if he is not really qualified.
2. **In general, don't sign-off requirements beyond your own ability.** If you do not have mastery of the skill yourself, you may not be able to ascertain whether the Scout has learned it.
3. **It is critical to understand that the requirements mean exactly what they say.** They are not to be interpreted or modified. A Scout pledges to be trustworthy, and should never allow someone to sign-off a requirement in his book that he has not literally and completely fulfilled. Don't give any Scout occasion for embarrassment at a Scoutmaster Conference or Board of Review where it might be discovered that certain signed-off requirements were, in fact, not met and must be redone in order to advance.
 - a. For example, First Class requirement 4e says the Scout must prepare the breakfast, lunch and dinner planned in requirement 4a. That doesn't mean two lunches and a dinner, and it doesn't mean a different menu than that planned in requirement 4a.
 - b. If the requirement is to demonstrate folding, raising and lowering the U.S. flag, he must do exactly those things with a real flag and a flagpole, rather than describe the process or use substitutes.
4. **Requirements should be signed-off in ink at the time a Scout completes them by an authorized individual who personally witnessed the demonstration of the relevant skill.** Senior Scouts and adults should avoid sign-offs in proxy—approving completion of a requirement based solely on the Scout's or someone else's say-so. Sign-offs should always be initialed and dated with the actual date completed in a MM/DD/YY format.
5. **An individual may only sign-off a maximum of 3 requirements per rank for any Scout.** Additionally, a Scout's parents may only sign-off on Scout requirement 9, Tenderfoot requirement 10a, and Second Class requirements 9a and 10. Parents should also sign-off the Scout Spirit requirement, with initials and date to the left of the sign-off box (the final sign-off for Scout Spirit is made during the Scoutmaster Conference).

Please note: only Registered Adults may sign-off on requirements other than those approved for parental sign-off.

Acknowledgement:

I understand the above statement regarding the integrity of Scout Advancement, and I agree to maintain that integrity as I sign-off on any Scout's advancement requirements. By my signature and initials below, I am authorized by the Troop to approve a Scout's advancement requirements according to the above statement and the guidelines in the *Troop 794 Guide*.

Signed: _____ Sign-off Initials: _____

Print Full Name: _____