

# Troop 262 Advancement Program

The Boy Scouts of America provides recognition for Scout achievements. The advancement program allows Scouts to progress from rank to rank.

A fundamental purpose of advancement is the self-confidence a young man acquires from his participation in a troop.

Requirements serve as the basis for a Scout's rank advancement. The four steps to advancement are learning, testing, reviewing, and recognition.

Many Scouts have been introduced to a lifelong hobby or rewarding career through the merit badge program. Merit badges help Scouts develop physical skills, social skills, and self-reliance.

## **Trail to First Class**

The Troop 262 Trail to First Class program is designed to provide guidance to our first year Scouts until they reach the rank of First Class. The "Trail to First Class" program starts immediately upon entering the troop. All new Scouts are kept together and become part of a "Dragon" Patrol. There can be two or more first year only patrols depending on the number of new scouts. A major plus to this program is that the boys start their scouting experience with their current friends from Webelos.

This patrol is closely guided by Troop Guides (older Scout mentors), one or more Assistant Scoutmasters and or trained adult volunteers. The responsibilities of the adults are to insure that the Scouts perform the needed requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class with goal of reaching First Class one year from their joining date.

## **First to Life**

The Troop 262 First to Life program is designed to provide guidance to our Scouts who have reached First Class until they reach the rank of Life.

The responsibilities of the adults are to insure that the Scouts who have reached First Class continue with their Scouting career to Life where the Life To Eagle program takes over. Scouts are offered merit badge programs throughout the year.

## **Road to Eagle**

The Troop 262 Road to Eagle program is designed to provide guidance to our Scouts who have reached the rank of Life.

The responsibilities of the counselors are to insure that the Scouts perform the needed requirements in order and that all necessary paperwork is completed on time. Additionally, they look after Scouts who are approaching their 18th birthday to insure that they get all requirements completed.

Scouts may begin working toward their Eagle service project anytime after they have earned Life Rank, regardless of the number of merit badges they have earned. The unit leader, unit committee, and council or district advancement committee must approve the project idea before actual work can begin.

After you receive your Life Scout rank, you should get the Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project Workbook followed by the Eagle Rank Application form. You will not need the Eagle Rank Application until after the service project has been completed.