What Every Scout Should Know:

**Scout Oath:** Must know

On my honor I will do my best
to do my duty to God and my country
and to obey the Scout Law:
To help other people at all times;
To keep myself physically strong,
mentally awake, and morally straight.

**Scout Law:** Must know

A Scout is...
Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, Reverent.

**Scout Motto:** Should know, especially higher ranks, First-Class and above

Be prepared.

**Scout Slogan:** Should know, especially higher ranks, First-Class and above

Do a good turn daily.

**Outdoor Code:** Optional, ask for Star and Life ranks

As an American, I will do my best to-
Be clean in my outdoor manners,
Be careful with fire,
Be considerate in the outdoors, and
Be conservation minded.

**The Buddy System:** All Scouts MUST know for outdoor safety

The buddy system always consists of at least four Scouts or more. Our example here is based on four Scouts. In the case of an emergency, two Scouts would stay at the scene of the emergency and two Scouts would go together to get help. In the case of an injury to one of the four Scouts, one Scout would stay with the injured Scout and two Scouts would go together to get help. This will always insure that no one is ever left alone.

**The Two On One Rule:** All Scouts MUST know for personal safety

The two on one rule is set up to ensure the safety of Scout and the safety of the adult leaders as well. It ensures that no harm can come to a Scout by an adult leader. But, it also protects a Scout leader from being falsely accused by a Scout of sexual, physical, mental or emotional abuse.

Sometimes the truth is not always easy to see. That's when the testimony of the third person can help the other adult leaders determine the truth of what occurred.

The two on one rule, simply stated, means that there needs to be at least three people present in a mixed group of Scouts and adults at all times when the group is out of the line of sight of any other Scouts or leaders. That group can be made up of two Scouts and one adult, or two adults and one Scout. There is one exception to this rule and that is when the adult in question is the parent of the Scout. In that case the Scout is free to go with his mother or father and the out of sight of the Scout troop.
Explain the following to the younger Scouts in your own words:

You know "David", we adults get pretty busy and sometimes we act before we think. For example, sometime I may say to you on a campout, "Come on "David" let's go get some firewood from the store". And you'll remember the Two On One Rule and know that we're not supposed to go somewhere alone together.

I want to be sure, that you understand that I want you to say to me, "Mr. _____ aren't you forgetting the Two On One Rule? Don't you remember that we have to have someone else go with us?" I can promise you that I will not be angry with you for reminding me about the rule. As a matter-of-fact, I'll be glad that you remembered the rule and reminded me. And I can promise you that any of the other adults on this review board will also react the same way.

But, if one of our adult leaders gives you hard time or refuses to listen, then here is what I want you to do. First, I want you to refuse to go with them. I want you to just walk away from them and join a group of other Scouts or leaders. The second thing is the most important, I want you to come to an adult leader in the troop that you know and trust and tell them what happened. As responsible Scout leaders, we want to make sure that we explain to the first leader the Two On One Rule, why it's so important, and why we want them to follow it.

I promise you that we will not be angry at you for telling us about this leader. We want you to feel safe and have a great Scouting experience.

Tenderfoot Rank
This is the Scouts first experience with a board of review. The process may require some explanation on the part of the board of review chairperson.

The first few questions in the board of review should be simple. The board of review should try to gain a sense of how the Scout is fitting into the troop, and the Scout’s level of enjoyment of the troop and patrol activities.

Encourage advancement to Second-Class. Point out that the Scout may have already completed many of the requirements for second class.

The approximate time for this board of review should be 15 minutes.

Sample Tenderfoot Questions:

1. Demonstrate the proper way to recite the Scout Oath and the Scout Law. (Help the Scout relax and give him multiple opportunities to recite it correctly.)
2. What is the “buddy system” that we use in Scouting? When do we use it?
3. Explain the “two on one rule”.
4. When did you join our troop?
5. How many troop meetings have you attended in the last two months?
6. Tell us about your last troop campout.
7. What did you do at your last patrol meeting?
8. If you could be in any patrol in Troop 23 which one would it be? Why?
9. How would the first-aid skills you must know for Tenderfoot help on a campout?
10. Where did you learn how to fold the American flag? Tell us about your first experience with this skill.
11. How would you avoid poison oak (poison ivy, sumac)? Before joining Scouts were you able to identify these plants?
12. Where did you go on your hike up? How did you choose the location?
13. If you were on a hike and got lost, what would you do?
14. Why do we whip or fuse the ends of a rope?
15. Why do you think there are physical fitness requirements (push-ups, pull-ups, etc.) and a retest after 30 days, for the Tenderfoot Rank?
16. What does it mean to the Tenderfoot Scout to “Be Prepared”?
17. Do you feel that you have done to your best to complete the requirements for Tenderfoot? Why?
18. What good turn have you done today or this week?
19. Please give us an example of how you obey the Scout Law at home (school, church)?
20. What you like best about our troop? What you like the least?
21. What do you like most about Monday night meetings? What do you like the least?
22. What does it mean for a Scout to be “Kind”?
23. Do you have any special plans for this summer? (The holidays, spring break, etc.).
24. When do you plan to have the requirements completed for Second-Class?
This is the Scout’s second board of review. The process should be familiar to the Scout, unless it has been sometime since his board of review for Tenderfoot.

Questions should focus on the use of the Scout skills learned for this rank, without retesting these skills. The board of review should try to perceive how the Scout’s patrol is functioning, and how the Scout is functioning within his patrol area.

Encourage work on the remaining requirements for First-Class. Many of the easier ones may have already been completed.

The approximate time for this border of review should be 15 minutes.

**Sample Second-Class questions:**

1. Demonstrate the proper way to recite the Scout Oath and Scout Law. (help the Scout relax and give him multiple opportunities to recite it correctly.)
2. What is the “buddy system” that we use in Scouting? When do we use it?
3. Explain the “two on one rule”.
4. How many patrol meetings have you attended in the last three months?
5. What did your patrol do at its last meeting?
6. Tell us about a service project in which you participated.
7. Where did you go on your last troop campout? Did you have a good time? Why?
8. If you could be in any patrol in Troop 23 which one would it be? Why?
9. Why is important to be able to identify animals found in your community?
10. Tell us about a flag ceremony in which you participated.
11. What is in your personal first-aid kit?
12. What have you learned about handling woods tools (axes, saws, etc.)?
13. How are a map of the area and compass useful on a campout?
14. Have you ever done more than one “good turn” in a day? Ask for details.
15. Have you earned any merit badges?
   - If “Yes”: Which ones? Why did you choose them? Who was your counselor?
   - If “No”: Encourage getting started, and suggest one or two of the easier ones.
16. Did you attend summer camp with our troop last summer?
   - If “Yes”: What was your best (worst) experience that summer camp?
   - If “No”: Why not?
17. Do you plan to attend summer camp with our troop next summer?
   - If “Yes”: What are you looking forward to doing it summer camp?
   - If “No”: Why not?
18. What suggestions to you have for improving our troop?
19. How do you help out at home, church, school?
20. What class in school is most challenging for you? Why?
21. One of the requirements for tenderfoot is to participate in a program regarding drug, alcohol and tobacco abuse. Tell us about the program in which you participated.
22. How is it possible to live the Scout oath and the Scout Law in your daily life?
23. What does it mean to say, “A Scout is trustworthy”? (Or any other point of the Scout Law).
24. When do you expect to complete the requirements for First-Class?

**First-Class Rank:**

By this point the Scout should be comfortable with the board of review process.
The Scout should be praised for his accomplishment in achieving First-Class (particularly if he joined the Boy Scouts less than a year ago). In achieving the rank of First-Class, the Scout should feel an additional sense of responsibility to the troop and his patrol.

The First-Class rank will produce additional opportunities for the Scout (Order of the Arrow, leadership, etc.).

Merit badges will begin to play a role in future advancement to the Star and Life ranks. Encourage merit badge work if it has not already begun.

The approximate time for this board of review should be 15-20 minutes.

Sample First-Class questions:

1. Demonstrate the proper way to recite the Scout Oath and Scout Law. (Help the Scout relax, but by this rank the Scout must be able to recite the Oath and Law in order to advance to First-Class.)
2. What is the “buddy system” that we use in Scouting? When do we use it?
3. Explain the “two on one rule”.
4. On average, how many troop meetings do you attend each month?
5. What part of troop meetings is most rewarding to you?
6. What is the Scout Slogan? What does it mean for a First-Class Scout?
7. Do you understand the difference in duties between the Committee Members and the Scoutmasters? (Explain if he does not know.)
8. If you could be in any patrol in Troop 23 which one would it be? Why?
9. What do you like most about our Monday night meetings? What do you like the least? If you could be “king for a day”, how would you like to change our Monday night meetings?
10. Tell us about your last campout with the troop. Where did you go? How did you help with meal preparation? Did you have a good time? (If “No”: why not?)
11. If you were in charge of planning and preparing a dinner for your next campout, what would you select? Would you use a Dutch oven?
12. As a First-Class Scout, what do you think the Star, Life, and Eagle Scouts will expect from you on an outing?
13. Does your family do any camping? What have you learned in Scouts, that you have been able to share with your family to improve their camping experiences?
14. Why do you think that swimming is emphasized in Scouting?
15. Why is it important for you to know how to transport a person who has a broken leg?
16. Why is it important for you to be able to recognize local plant life?
17. What did you learn about using a compass while completing the orienteering requirement?
18. What does it mean to say, “A Scout is Courteous”? (Or any other point of the Scout Law).
19. Why are merit badges a part of Scouting?
20. How frequently do you attend religious services? Does your whole family attend?
21. What is your most favorite part of Scouting? Least favorite?
22. How does a Scout fulfill his “Duty to Country”?
23. How did you define Scout spirit?
24. What is the Order of the Arrow? What is the primary function of O.A.? Is being elected to O.A. one of your Scouting goals?
25. Who was Lord Baden-Powell?

When you think you might be ready for Star Scout?
Star Rank:
With the Star rank, emphasis is placed upon service to others, merit badges, and leadership. Scout skills remain an important element for the Star Scout; however, the emphasis should be on teaching other Scouts these skills.
Explore how the Star Scout can assist with leading his patrol and troop. Attempt to understand how the Scouting philosophy is becoming a part of the Scout's life.

Often the Star rank is a place where Scouts “stall out”. Encourage the Scout to remain active, and participate fully in his patrol and troop. If the Scout appears to be looking for some additional opportunities, suggest leadership positions such as Den Chief or Troop Guide.

The approximate time for this Board of review should be 15-20 minutes.

Sample Star questions:

1. Demonstrate the proper way to recite the Scout Oath and Scout Law. (In some cases it has been a long time since the Scout's First-Class rank. Should he board of review. If the Scout cannot recite the Oath and Law without coaching, then his readiness to advance to Life rank is in doubt and his lack of preparation is obvious. Retries are appropriate if the Scout is nervous. It is hard to live the philosophy of the Scout Oath and Law if you do not know them. Stop the review at this point and inform the Scout that he cannot pass his review at this time. Encourage him to review the Scout Oath and Law and apply for a new board of review at the next Scout meeting. Follow the procedures set forth in the last paragraph under the section entitled “Mechanics of a Board of Review”.)

2. How would you explain to a new Scout the “buddy system” that we use in Scouting? When do we use it?

3. How would you explain to a new Scout or their parents the “two on one rule”? Suppose that you saw a situation where the “two on one rule” was about to be broken. How would you intercede and what would you say to both the Scout and the adult Scout leader to correct the situation. How would you handle it if the adult Scout leader persisted in not abiding by the “two on one rule”?

4. What part of troop meetings is most rewarding to you?

5. What is the Scout Slogan? What does it mean for a Star Scout?

6. What does it mean for Star Scout to “Be Prepared” on a daily basis?

7. Do you understand the difference in duties between the Committee Members and the Scoutmasters? (Explain if he does not know.)

8. If you could be in any patrol in Troop 23 which one would it be? Why?

9. What do you like most about our Monday night meetings? What do you like the least? How would you like to change our Monday night meetings to better serve your needs?

10. How many troop and outings have you attended in the last three months?

11. Tell us about the last service project in which you participated.

12. How have the Scout skills that you have learned helped you in a non-Scouting activity?

13. How many merit badges have you earned? What was the most difficult (fun, challenging, expensive, etc.)?

14. Which is more important: Becoming a Star Scout, or learning the skills prescribed for a Star Scout?

15. Why you think the scoutmaster’s conference is required for advancement in rank?

16. What do you think is the most important part of a troop Court of Honor? Why?

17. What leadership positions have you held outside of your patrol? What challenges did they present? What did you discover about some of your personal strengths and weaknesses? What are your personal leadership goals and objectives?

18. How would you get a Scout to do an unpleasant task?

19. What extracurricular activities to you participate in at school?

20. What responsibilities to you have at home?

21. What is our duty to God?

22. What does it mean to say a Scout is loyal? (Or one of the other points of the Scout Law)
23. How is the Scout Oath and Law a part of your daily life?
24. What is the outdoor code? Why is it important?
25. If the Scout is a member of the Order of the Arrow:
   When did you complete your "Ordeal", "Brotherhood"?
   What does membership in the O.A. signify?
   Has membership in O.A. enhanced Scouting experience? If so, how?
26. Have you received any special awards or accomplishments in school, athletics, or church? Tell us about it.
27. Baden-Powell's first Scout outing was located on an island off the coast of Great Britain; what was the name of the island? (Answer: Brownsea Island)
The Life rank is the final rank before Eagle. The Life Scout should be fully participating in the troop, with emphasis being placed on leadership in the unit, as well as teaching skills and leadership to the younger Scouts.

Merit badge were should be a regular part of the Scout's career. Scouting values in concept should be an integral part of the Scout's daily life.

At this point, the Scout is starting to "give back" to Scouting through leadership, training of other Scouts, recruiting, keeping Scouts active in the program, etc.

Explore suggestions for improving the program.

The approximate time for this Board of review should be 15-20 minutes.

Sample Life questions:

1. Demonstrate the proper way to recite the Scout Oath and Scout Law. (In some cases it has been a long time since the Scout's Star rank board of review. If the Scout cannot recite the Oath and Law without coaching, then his readiness to advance to Life rank is in doubt and his lack of preparation is obvious. Retries are appropriate if the Scout is nervous. It is hard to live the philosophy of the Scout Oath and Law if you do not know them. Stop the review at this point and inform the Scout that he cannot pass his review at this time. Encourage him to review the Scout Oath and Law and apply for a new board of review at the next Scout meeting. Follow the procedures set forth in the last paragraph under the section entitled "Mechanics of a Board of Review").

2. How would you explain to a new Scout the “buddy system” that we use in Scouting? When do we use it?

3. How would you explain to a new Scout or their parents the “two on one rule”? Suppose that you saw a situation where the “two on one rule” was about to be broken. How would you intercede and what would you say to both the Scout and the adult Scout leader to correct the situation. How would you handle it if the adult Scout leader persisted in not abiding by the “two on one rule”?

4. What is the most ambitious pioneering project in which you have assisted? Where?

5. What has been your worst camping experience in Scouting?

6. How many patrol meetings has your patrol held in the last three months? How many of them have you attended?

7. Have any of the merit badges you have earned led to hobbies or possible careers?

8. What are your hobbies?

9. If you could be in any patrol in Troop 23 which one would it be? Why?

10. Of the merit badges you have earned, which one do you think will be of greatest value to you as an adult? Why?

11. Why do you think that the three “Citizenship” merit badges are required for the Eagle Rank?

12. What is your current (most recent) leadership position within the Troop? How long review held that position? What particular challenges does it present? What have you discovered through leadership about some of your own personal strengths and weaknesses? What is Leadership?

13. Do you have any brothers or sisters who are in Scouts (any level)? What can you do to encourage them to continue with Scouts, and to move forward along the Scouting trail?

14. How do you choose between a school activity, a Scout activity, and a family activity?

15. Why do you think that Star and Life Scouts are required to contribute so much time to service projects? Which service projects were most rewarding to you? Why?

16. Why do you think that a board of review is required for rank advancement?

17. How has Scouting prepared you for the future?

18. What does it mean to say, “A Scout is Reverent” (or another point of the Law)?

19. Which one of the points of the Scout Law is easiest for you to do on a regular basis? Explain.
20. Which one of the points of the Scout Law is hardest for you to do on a regular basis? Explain. How to you think that you could improve in this area?

21. What does “Scout Spirit” mean to a Life Scout?

22. Why do you think that Scouting for Food is referred to as a “National Good Turn”?

23. The Scout Oath refers to a “duty to self”. What duty do we have to ourselves?

24. If the Scout is a member of the Order of the Arrow:

   When did you complete your “Ordeal”, “Brotherhood”?
   What does membership in the O.A. signify?
   Has membership in O.A. enhanced Scouting experience? If so, how?

25. In what year was the Boy Scouts of America founded? (Answer: February 8, 1910 – the BSA birthday)

26. Have you begun to think about an Eagle Service Project? What are you thinking about doing? When?
**Eagle Palms:**

Eagle Palm’s are awarded for continued leadership and skills development (merit badges) after the Eagle rank has been earned. The purpose of this board of review is to ensure that the Eagle Scout remains active within the unit, contributes to the leadership of the unit, and assists with the growth of other Scouts within the unit.

The approximate time for this Board of review should be 15-20 minutes.

**Sample Palm questions:**

1. Demonstrate the proper way to recite the Scout Oath and Scout Law.
2. As an Eagle, have the Scout Oath and Law gained new meaning for you? How?
3. Why is important to develop and identify leadership? How do you do this?
4. Since earning your Eagle, what merit badges have you earned? Tell us something about one of them.
5. Since earning your Eagle (or last Eagle Palm), in what service projects have you participated?
6. How do you plan to continue your involvement with Scouting?
7. What would you say to a Life Scout who is only minimally active within his unit, and who does not seem motivated to continue along the Scouting trail?
8. If a Life Scout were having difficulty selecting an Eagle Service Project, what would you suggest to him?
9. What is the primary role of the Scoutmaster? How can you help the Scoutmaster?
10. What is the primary role of the Committee Members? How can you help the Committee?
11. How have you begun to “give back to Scouting more than Scouting has given to you”?
12. In what year was the first World Jamboree held? (Answer: 1920)