PARENT'S GUIDE · BOARD OF REVIEW

Preparing for the Second Class Board of Review

TYPICAL LENGTH	WHO'S ON THE BOARD	TONE
15 minutes	3 troop committee members	Conversational, a bit more depth

By Second Class your scout has done several campouts and outings, cooked a meal, navigated a hike, and done some service. The board will expect a little more depth than at Tenderfoot. They'll want to hear what your scout did themselves and how they're starting to help others. It's still a friendly conversation, but "it was fun" won't carry an answer by itself anymore.

What the Board Will Likely Talk About

Outdoor experiences

The 5-mile map-and-compass hike, the meal they planned and cooked, choosing a campsite.

Service

The service project they did and why it mattered to them. Expect a connection to the Scout Oath.

Their money project

Second Class includes setting an earning goal and comparing prices. Boards often enjoy hearing how that went.

Safety and character

Bullying, personal safety, and how the Scout Law shows up at school and at home.

Questions to Ask at Home

Ask these casually, not as a mock interview. You're helping your scout remember their own stories, not rehearsing answers.

1. **“Tell me about the meal you cooked on the campout. Would you change anything?”**

   A strong answer: What they made and why, what went wrong, what they'd do differently. Mistakes make great answers.

2. **“How did you find your way on the 5-mile hike?”**

   A strong answer: They can explain using the map and compass themselves, even if it got confusing.

3. **“What service project did you do, and how did it help someone?”**

   A strong answer: A real connection to the people or place they helped, not just "we needed the hours."

4. **“What were you saving money for? How did your plan work out?”**

   A strong answer: The goal, how they earned it, and what changed along the way. It's fine if they didn't reach it.

5. **“Has a younger scout asked you for help yet? What did you do?”**

   A strong answer: Signs they're starting to help newer scouts, even in small ways.

Before the Board

- [ ] Every Second Class requirement is signed off, including the four-week activity log and the money project.
- [ ] Scoutmaster Conference is done and the board is scheduled.
- [ ] Service hours and outings are recorded in Scoutbook or with the troop advancement chair.
- [ ] Uniform and handbook are ready.

Tips for Parents

Second Class includes two family-based requirements: the money plan and the drug and alcohol awareness discussion. Make sure your part actually happened.

Help your scout remember specific stories. Looking at photos from campouts is a good way to bring them back.

Resist reminding them what to say. If they can't remember a requirement, that's worth a conversation, not a script.

> **Watch out:** Activity counts are where Second Class gets stuck: five outings, three of them overnight campouts. If you're not sure your scout's are recorded, ask the troop before scheduling the board.

Good to Know About Every Board of Review

It isn't a retest. The requirements were already signed off. Board members can ask how your scout learned a skill or what they got out of it, but they shouldn't make them retie knots or recite requirements. Your scout doesn't need to cram.

Parents usually wait outside. The board is three to six adult committee members talking with your scout. Parents can't serve on their own child's board, and most troops ask parents to wait outside. Check your troop's practice, and don't take it personally — the point is for your scout to speak for themselves.

There are no "right" answers. The board wants to hear how Scouting is going and what your scout has learned, in their own words. An honest "the hike was really hard and I almost quit" goes over much better than a polished speech.

Uniform matters, but not that much. Scouts should wear the uniform as neatly as they can. Missing pieces or an outgrown shirt shouldn't hold up a rank. If you're unsure what your troop expects, ask.

If it's not approved, there's a next step. Boards rarely turn a scout down. If they do, they have to explain what's missing and how to fix it, and the scout can come back. There's also a formal appeal process. A board that "continues" a review just needs something finished first; it isn't a failure.

Troops and councils handle scheduling and logistics differently. When in doubt, ask your troop's advancement chair.