PARENT'S GUIDE · BOARD OF REVIEW

Preparing for the Star Board of Review

TYPICAL LENGTH	WHO'S ON THE BOARD	TONE
15–20 minutes	3–4 troop committee members	Focused on leadership and growth

Star is a different kind of rank. Instead of skill requirements, it's about merit badges, service, and holding a leadership position for four months. The board will want to hear how your scout handled that role: what went well, what was hard, and how they dealt with other scouts. This is often the first board where a scout's maturity really shows, and the questions reflect that.

What the Board Will Likely Talk About

Their leadership position

What the role involved, what they actually did, and a time it was hard.

Merit badges

Which ones they enjoyed, what they learned from a counselor, which ones were tough.

Service

The six hours of service and what it meant to them.

Scout spirit outside Scouting

How the Oath and Law show up at school, at home, and with friends.

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. **"What did you actually do in your leadership position? Tell me about a good day and a bad day."**
   A strong answer: Specific responsibilities and a real challenge, like a scout who wouldn't listen or a task that fell apart.

2. **“Which merit badge taught you the most? Which counselor stood out?”**

   A strong answer: Real enthusiasm for one badge, and something they learned that wasn't just a requirement.

3. **“What would you do differently if you had your position again?”**

   A strong answer: Self-reflection. Owning a mistake is a strength here.

4. **“How do you help younger scouts in the troop?”**

   A strong answer: Examples of teaching or looking out for newer scouts.

5. **“What's your plan for Life rank?”**

   A strong answer: A rough plan: which merit badges, a position, maybe early thoughts about an Eagle project.

Before the Board

- [ ] At least four months active as a First Class scout.
- [ ] Six merit badges, including four Eagle-required ones, with blue cards returned and recorded.
- [ ] Six hours of approved service recorded.
- [ ] Four months in a position of responsibility, confirmed by the Scoutmaster.
- [ ] Scoutmaster Conference is done and the board is scheduled.

Tips for Parents

Keep copies or photos of every blue card. Missing merit badge records are the most common paperwork problem at Star and Life.

Ask your scout how their leadership role is really going. You'll learn a lot, and they'll get practice talking about it.

Let your scout handle scheduling the board and talking to the advancement chair. That's part of the growth this rank is about.

> **Watch out:** Leadership time has to be in an approved position, and the Scoutmaster needs to agree the scout actually served. If there's any question, sort it out with the Scoutmaster before the board, not during it.

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.