

# Advancement in Troop 318



# Your Advancement Chairperson

- **Current Advancement Chairperson**
  - Brad Gillespie
  - [bradgillespie@yahoo.com](mailto:bradgillespie@yahoo.com)
  - 919-906-5555
- **Oversees advancement activities within the troop.**
- **Your resource for questions or concerns.**



# What is different from Cub Scouts?

## Scouts advance at their own pace

- The scouts are “in the driver seat”.
- The troop will assist in the process with programs that cover requirements and opportunities to sign-off on requirements during meetings and camping trips. However, ultimately the responsibility falls on the scout.

## Parents do not sign off on requirements

- The scouts work with their adult leaders and peers to get requirements signed off.
- Even if you become an adult leader, you should not sign off your child’s requirements. Scouts need to learn to work with other adults and older children.

# Who can sign off on rank requirements?

Scout

Tenderfoot

Second  
Class

First Class

Star

Life

Eagle

Signed off by scouts at First Class or above\* or SM/ASM

Signed off by SM/ASM only

Scoutmaster Conference with Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster is required for all ranks to verify that essential scout knowledge has been learned.

*\* When scouts reach First Class, we review the responsibilities of signing off requirements correctly with them.*

# Sign-off Guidelines

- Signed-off requirements have to include both the date and initials, and both need to be written **clearly and legibly**.
- Pay close attention to what a requirement says. You may need to demonstrate a skill that you have learned, discuss what you did, or show that you completed camping nights or service hours in the logs in your book.
- Get service hours pre-approved by an adult leader and signed off after completion.
- After you get a requirement signed off in your book, mark it as completed **with the same date** in Scoutbook (more on that later).
- **DON'T LOSE YOUR BOOK!** Your book should always be with you during scout meetings and trips so you can get requirements signed off. But it is also your main record of what you have done, so don't lose it.

# Early vs. Later Ranks

## Scout through First Class

- Teaches essential scouting and outdoor skills
- Requirements can be worked on at the same time
- Merit badges can be earned but are not required yet

## Star through Eagle

- Requires serving in roles of leadership and responsibility
- Requires service hours
- Must earn merit badges
- Must be earned sequentially

# Board of Review

- The final step to complete each rank (except Scout) is a meeting with troop committee members to discuss the scout's experiences while earning the rank. It is not a test.
- BORs are scheduled every month on the second Monday, immediately after the troop committee meeting and during the troop meeting. Scouts are expected to be in full uniform for BOR.
- To schedule a BOR, turn your book in with all other requirements signed off to the Advancement Chairperson **at least one week before** the scheduled BOR. Camping Logs and Service Logs should also be up-to-date.
- Once the BOR is completed, the scout has earned that rank and will be presented with the badge, which should be sewn on the uniform ASAP. Official recognition of the achievement occurs several times per year at a Court of Honor ceremony.

# Merit Badges

## Find a Merit Badge Counselor

- A list of MBCs within the troop is maintained on the troop website. Ask one of them to work with you.
- If we do not have a MBC for a badge that you want to work on, the Advancement Chairperson can provide a list outside of the troop for you to contact.

## Get a Blue Card

- The blue card documents your work on the merit badge.
- Request a blue card from the Advancement Chairperson.
- Don't lose it! It's your record of what you have completed, just like your book is for rank requirements.

## Meet with your MBC

- Meet with the MBC to plan your work on the badge.
- Another adult should be present, or the meeting should be held in a public place.

## Complete the merit badge requirements

- Work on requirements independently or as agreed upon with your MBC.
- Meet regularly with your MBC so that he or she can check your progress and sign off the requirements as you complete them.

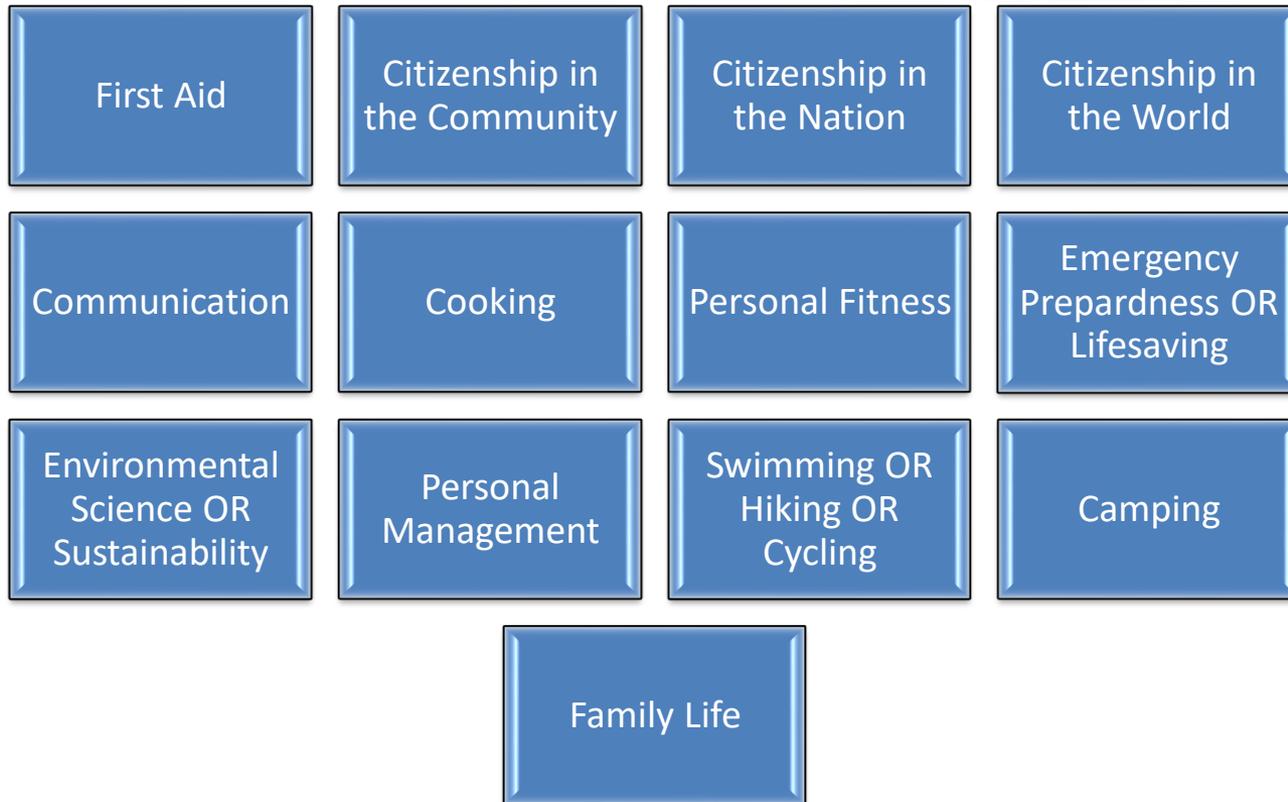
## Turn in your Blue Card

- Have the MBC sign off on the blue card that you have completed all requirements.
- Get the Scoutmaster's approval signature on the blue card.
- Turn the Blue Card in to the Advancement Chairperson.
- Receive your merit badge at the next Court of Honor!

# Summer Camp and Merit Badge Clinics

- Summer camp and merit badge clinics are great opportunities to earn several merit badges or to earn one in a shorter time period.
- If the event is not sponsored by BSA, then you must still have a trained Merit Badge Counselor review your work and sign off on the requirements.
- Some of these events provide blue cards, and some require that you bring them with you. Either way, the sign-off process is the same.
  - Some events may require that you do pre-requisite requirements before attending in order to complete the badge.
  - If you do not complete all of the requirements at the event, you will receive a “partial” blue card that you must finish by working with a Merit Badge Counselor.

# Eagle Required Merit Badges



***The troop tries to hold occasional clinics for certain Eagle-required merit badges that are difficult to earn at other camps or clinics***

# Six Tips for Success

## #1 Focus on First Class

- New scouts should focus on getting to First Class, ideally within the first 18 months.
- The first four ranks provide essential scouting skills, and learning those in a timely manner sets you up for success in the program.
- Do most of your merit badge work at summer camp until you are First Class. There will be time to work on badges afterwards.

## #2 Go to summer camp

- Earn as many merit badges as you can at summer camp. Do a mix of fun merit badges and Eagle-required ones.
- After three summer camps, you can have a huge portion of merit badges required for the upper ranks, including Eagle.

## #3 Focus your merit badge work

- Outside of summer camp, limit yourself to working on one or two merit badges at a time.
- Complete the one(s) you are working on before beginning a new one so you don't have hanging "partials".

# Six Tips for Success

## #4 Read the requirements

- If you are interested in a certain topic covered by rank advancements or a merit badge, become familiar with the requirements. You may find that you complete those requirements in school or in another extracurricular activity. Make sure you get credit for those!

## #5 Use Scoutbook

- Keep your information up-to-date there, including Advancement, Camping, and Service.
- It will help you stay organized, and you will help you if you ever lose your book (but don't lose the book).

## #6 Review and plan

- Review your progress at least monthly, preferably with a parent or adult leader. Update your records in Scoutbook and run a report to see what you need to do next.
- Set goals for yourself and figure out what will motivate you to meet those goals.

# Troop 318 & Scoutbook



# Scoutbook.com

- Scoutbook is BSA’s official online system for managing troop activities, including advancement. Its usage is highly encouraged.
- Parents and scouts can have accounts. Parent accounts may need to be manually linked to the scout. Contact the Advancement Chairperson for assistance.
- A phone app called “Scouting” is also available, but use the actual website to sign up.

# Things that you can do with Scoutbook

- **Update your Advancement**
- **Update your Awards**
- **Update your Service and Camping Logs**
- **Run a report on your progress**
- **Send messages to other scouts and adults**

# First you need an account

## Have you ever...

- been a registered BSA volunteer?
- taken BSA online training?
- applied to join scouting through a BSA website?

**If any of the above apply to you, you may already have an account.**

Search for it at *my.scouting.org*

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my.Scouting

Forgot Username?

\* Email or member ID:

\* Date of Birth:

RECOVER USERNAME

Forgot Password?

\* Username:

RECOVER PASSWORD

# Create a new account

Go to [my.scouting.org](https://my.scouting.org) and search for your information

### YOUR INFORMATION

\* First Name:

\* Last Name:

\* Date of Birth :

\* ZIP Code:

\* Are you outside the US?:  Yes  No

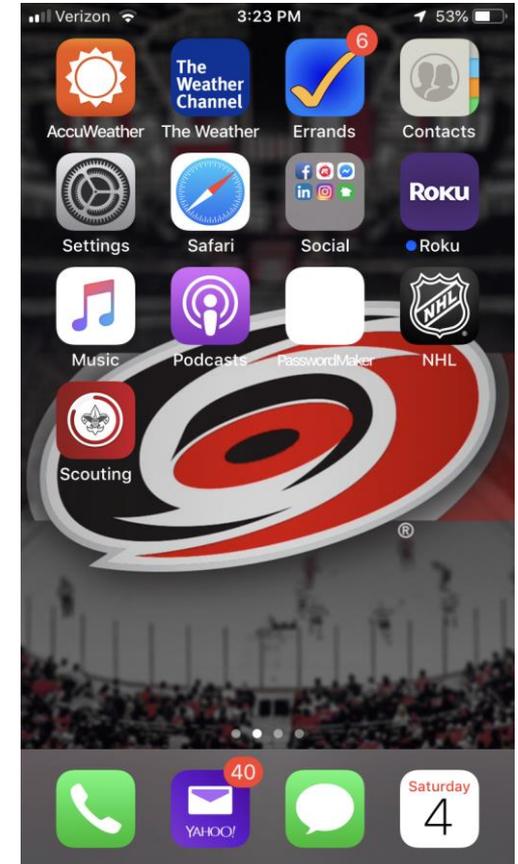
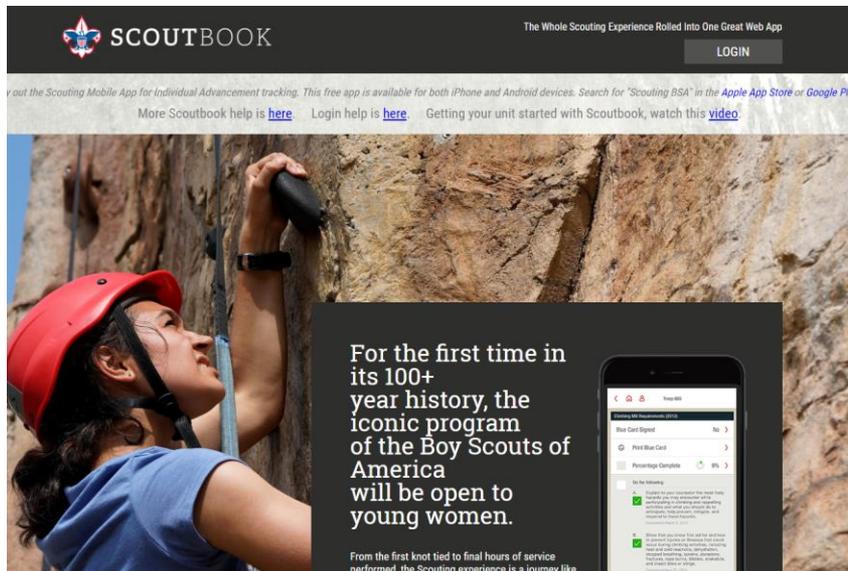
# Access Options

## Scoutbook.com website

You can do more stuff from there.

## Scouting mobile app

Convenient access to essential tasks from your smartphone



# Profile

My Account



CURRENT RANK:  
**Life Scout**

NEXT RANK:  96%

MERIT BADGES:  
23

PARENTS / GUARDIANS:



Brad Gillespie



Heather Gillespie

*Add a short bio about yourself.*



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**Advancement**



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**Awards**




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Email

[nathan@thegillespies.net](mailto:nathan@thegillespies.net) >

Password & Security

\*\*\*\*\* >

Switch SSO Profile

>

Verizon 5:27 PM 43%

**Profile**



**Nathan John Gillespie**

23 Merit Badges - Earned  
Life Scout Rank - Current  
OA Member

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🏠 Occoneechee 421

👤 Spartan Patrol VIEW

📍 Troop 0318 North Raleigh United Methodist Church

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**Program Leadership** SEE ALL

Total Days: 1125

	Webmaster	383 days
	Instructor	196 days

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**My Parents / Guardians:**



Nathan Bradley Gillespie

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Dashboard

  
Profile

  
Advancements

  
Events

  
Settings

# Update Advancement

## Important! Date Completed must match printed book!

☰ < 🏠 📅 My Profile Advancement Eagle Requirement #7

**Maintenance Advisory:** There will be a brief maintenance window starting at 2:00 PM CDT, Tuesday, May 7, 2019 for Scoutbook.com. We apologize for any inconvenience. Thank you.

### Eagle Scout Requirement #7

Successfully complete your board of review for the Eagle Scout rank.<sup>12</sup>

In preparation for your board of review, prepare and attach to your Eagle Scout Rank Application a statement of your ambitions and life purpose and a listing of positions held in your religious institution, school, camp, community, or other organizations, during which you demonstrated leadership skills. Include honors and awards received during this service. (This requirement may be met after age 18, in accordance with Guide to Advancement topic 8.0.3.1.<sup>13</sup>)

Date Completed:

**Today** **Save**

#### My Notepad & Comments

about my requirement #7

Elisabeth Lane Albert O'Connell David Wells Nathan Gillespie Nathan Gillespie William McCloud Kevin Shanahan Heather Gillespie Barron Holland

**Nathan G.** just now

**Post Note**

Verizon 5:30 PM 41%

### Rank Requirements

**EAGLE SCOUT**  
86% Completed

7. Successfully complete your board of review for the Eagle Scout rank.<sup>12</sup>

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**SUBMIT REQUIREMENT**

Dashboard Profile Advancements Events Settings

# Update Merit Badge

Troop 318 B My Profile Advancement

Your Merit Badges	
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Pets</b> Version 2014 Unit leader signature: Glen Jones Assigned counselor: Brad Gillespie	0% >
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Geocaching</b> Version 2010 Unit leader signature: Glen Jones Assigned counselor: Brad Gillespie	68% >
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Chemistry</b> Version 2006 Unit leader signature: Glen Jones Leader Approved on by Glen Jones	4/20/15 >
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Kayaking</b> Version 2012 Unit leader signature: Glen Jones Leader Approved on by Glen Jones	7/18/15 >
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Archery</b> Version 2014 Unit leader signature: Glen Jones Leader Approved on by Glen Jones	7/18/15 >
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>First Aid</b> Version 2015 Unit leader signature: Glen Jones Leader Approved on by Glen Jones	1/17/16 >
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Cit. in Nation</b> Version 2005 Unit leader signature: Glen Jones Leader Approved on by Glen Jones	3/27/16 >
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Orienteering</b> Version 2013 Leader Approved on by Glen Jones	7/16/16 >
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Nature</b> Version 2014 Leader Approved on by Glen Jones	7/16/16 >
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Digital Tech</b> Version 2014 Leader Approved on by Glen Jones	7/16/16 >
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Swimming</b>	7/16/16 >



# Update Merit Badge

☰ < 🏠 📅 My Profile My Service Log

**Maintenance Advisory:** There will be a brief maintenance window starting at 2:00 PM CDT, Tuesday, May 7, 2019 for Scoutbook.com. We apologize for any inconvenience. Thank you.

Location / Organization:

Service Date:  📅 30

Hours:

Notes/Journal:

**Update**

Feature Assistant Active  
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Verizon 5:32 PM 41%

← **Service History** SAVE



**New Service Log**

Hours

− 0 +

📍 **Location / organization**  
Type location here

📅 **Service date**  
05/04/2019 ▼

YOUR NOTES / JOURNAL:

*I enjoyed this service because*

Dashboard Profile Advancements Events Settings