

## Appendix H: Sample Scoutmaster Conference Questions

### The Scoutmaster Conference for Joining and Scout

- What did you like about Cub Scouting?
- What do you think you will like about Boy Scouting?
- Do you have any brothers or sisters?
- What are your interests outside of Scouting?
- Why did you join our troop?
- Do you have any questions about Boy Scouting or the troop?
- What do the Scout Oath and the Scout Law mean to you?

You should explain:

- The advancement process, including who will be approving and recording his progress
- The purpose and timing of Scoutmaster conferences
- How the boy-led troop works and his advancing role in it
- The patrol method and the new-Scout patrol

Make sure you give the Scout handshake, and see that the Scout can demonstrate the sign and salute —and knows when it is appropriate to use them.

### The Scoutmaster Conferences for Tenderfoot Through First Class

- Who is your patrol leader, and what do you think of him?
- What do you think of the problems you are facing?
- How have you progressed on first aid?
- What are your goals for the next few months, and how do those goals meet advancement requirements?
- What do you think could be done to improve the troop?

You can review what a Scout has learned in achievements so far, and see how he has absorbed the skills. Ask the candidate about the service hours he contributed, how he felt about his efforts, whether the effort was meaningful to him, and how the overall efforts impacted others.

You should explain:

- That a Scout does not always retain a skill simply by doing it for advancement; he must repeat it, and in some cases, teach it, to really have the skill
- The value of planning to achieve his goals
- How setting advancement goals involves looking ahead to see what must be accomplished and in what order
- How to use the merit badge program to explore interests and accomplish advancement

### The Scoutmaster Conferences for Star and Life

- What merit badges did you enjoy, and why?
- What merit badges did you get the most out of? How and why?
- How did you feel about your position of responsibility?
- How did you feel about how you exercised that position?
- What did you accomplish in that position?

- Did you experience any frustrations?
- Who do you think is doing a good job in the troop?
- Have you decided what merit badges you will be earning next?
- Have you thought about achieving Eagle?
- Have you thought about a service project for Eagle?

You should explain:

- The progressive nature of providing service to others from Star to Eagle ranks
- The nature of required and non-required merit badges

### The Scoutmaster Conference for Eagle

- How did you feel your Eagle service project went?
- Did you run into any rough spots?
- Did you plan enough to get you over the rough spots?
- How did you work with your project beneficiary?
- Was the project beneficiary clear in its goals for you?
- Would you do the project differently now?
- How do you think the troop is doing?
- How do you intend to help the troop after you become an Eagle Scout?
- Do you have any goals for the troop?
- What are your personal goals and ambitions?
- Do you feel you are prepared to become an Eagle Scout?
- Do you believe you have accomplished all you need to in order to become an Eagle Scout?

You should explain:

- That his Scouting career is not over; Eagle Palms, leadership, and adult leadership await him
- That additional opportunities exist through Order of the Arrow, Venturing, and Sea Scouting

### The Scoutmaster Conference for Eagle Palms

- How do you plan on contributing to the troop now?
- What are your goals for the troop?
- What are your personal goals?
- How will your Scouting experience help you?
- How do you live the Scout Oath and Law in your daily life and non-Scouting activities?

You might explain:

- Scouting opportunities for older boys
- National Youth Leadership Training
- Leadership in the Order of the Arrow
- Camp staff opportunities
- The Hornaday awards
- Venturing
- What happens when a Scout turns 18
- Potential service as an assistant Scoutmaster
- Remaining active in Scouting in college or when one moves