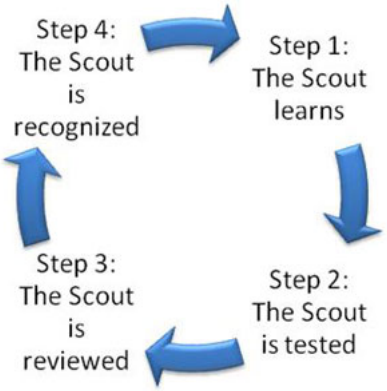

There are four main steps to Boy Scout Advancement. A Boy Scout advances from Tenderfoot to Eagle by doing things with his patrol and his troop, with his leaders and on his own. Adult leaders are an essential part of this process as they promote and ensure that advancement is earned. It's easy for a Scout to advance if the following four opportunities are provided for him.

- The Boy Scout learns. A Scout learns by doing. As he learns, he grows in ability to do his part as a member of the patrol and the troop. As he develops knowledge and skill, he is asked to teach others; and in this way he begins to develop leadership.
- The Boy Scout is tested. A Scout may be tested on rank requirements by his patrol leader, Scoutmaster, assistant Scoutmaster, a troop committee member or a member of his troop. The Scoutmaster maintains a list of those qualified to give tests and pass candidates. The Scout's merit badge counselor teaches and tests on the requirements for merit badges.
- The Boy Scout is reviewed. After a Scout has completed all requirements for a rank, he has a board of review. For Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star, Life and Eagle Palms, the review is conducted by members of the troop committee. The Eagle Scout board of review is conducted in accordance with local council procedures.
- The Boy Scout is recognized. When the board of review has certified a boy's advancement, he deserves to receive recognitions soon as possible. This should be done at a ceremony at the next troop meeting. The certificate for his new rank may be presented later at a formal court of honor.