

## **T-714 - Star, Life, Eagle rank requirement #1 – “Active” participation:**

- ***Star: Be active in your unit (and patrol) for at least four months as a First Class Scout.***
- ***Life: Be active in your unit (and patrol) for at least six months as a Star Scout.***
- ***Eagle: Be active in your troop ... for a period of at least six months after you have achieved the rank of Life Scout.***

Troop 714's long-standing policy regarding expectations for this requirement presumes a Scout is actively participating in the Troop based on meeting all of the following three standards:

- 1) Troop Meeting attendance: The Scout attends and participates fully in at least one-half of the meetings in a month (round up). A Scout must meet this four (4) times for Star or six (6) times for Life/Eagle.
- 2) Troop Camping participation: The Scout must participate actively in scheduled troop-level camping at least twice (2) for Star and at least three (3) times each for Life and Eagle. Tent or cabin camping counts for this but not events such as lock-ins. Participation in the overnight experience (two nights expected), the cooking (3-4 meals, including preparation and cleanup if camp meals), and the planned activities for the trip are required. Patrol camping counts toward the “active in patrol” part of this requirement (#3 below).
- 3) Patrol participation: The Scout must participate actively in his patrol. A Scout active in his patrol will participate actively and fully in most patrol activities such as: Program Patrol, Service Patrol, service projects (including for MVUMC, Scouting for Food, other), Patrol Campouts, etc. Input from the patrol ASM is used in evaluating these criteria.

For well over a decade, these specific expectations have been discussed in detail with each and every Scout during the First Class, Star and Life Scoutmaster Conferences. Upwards of 70 Eagle ranks and countless Star and Life advancements have been measured under this standard. A fair standard requires that every Scout meet the same requirements for rank advancement. To ensure this standard is fairly applied, only the Scoutmaster may sign off on requirement #1 for these three ranks.

The above policy was established to ensure consistent and fair evaluation of these requirements in conjunction with the BSA National advancement standards. The National standard requires the Scout to meet the following three sequential tests in fulfillment of these requirements:

1. The Scout is registered and indicates through word and action that he considers himself a member.
2. The Scout is in good standing (has not been suspended or dismissed for disciplinary reasons).
3. The Scouts meets the unit's reasonable expectations (above). If the unit expectations are not met, a board of review can accept a Scout's explanation of a lesser level of activity based on individual circumstances. Medical, educational, family and other issues that for practical purposes prevent higher levels of participation would merit this consideration.