

What To Do When Requirements Change?

Rank Advancement

2011 Guide to Advancement - Section 4.0.0.1 Changes to Requirements

Advancement requirements change from time to time. For Boy Scouting and Varsity Scouting, check the latest annual edition of *Boy Scout Requirements*, No. 34765. Changes usually appear first in a revised handbook, and then become effective the next January¹ and are published in the requirements book.

Unless otherwise stated there, or in the member handbook, the following options are allowed.

- If members have already started on a rank, Eagle Palm, or Venturing award when a revision is introduced, they may switch to the new requirements or continue with the old ones until it is completed.
- If members have not already started on a rank, they may use the new requirements; or, if work begins before the end of the current year, they may use the old requirements to complete the badge.

Merit Badges

2011 Guide to Advancement - Section 7.0.4.3 What to Do When Requirements Change

The current annual edition of *Boy Scout Requirements*, No. 34765, lists the official requirements. Changes usually appear first in a revised merit badge pamphlet, then become effective the next January 1 and are published in the requirements book. Unless otherwise stated there, or in the pamphlet, the following options are allowed.

- If Scouts have already started on a merit badge when a revision is introduced, they may switch to the new requirements or continue with the old ones until the badge is completed.
- If they have not already started, they may use the new requirements and the new pamphlet.
- If work begins before the end of the current year, they may use the old requirements and old pamphlet until the badge is completed.

There is no time limit between starting and completing a badge, although a counselor may determine so much time has passed since any effort took place that the new requirements must be used.

2011 Guide to Advancement - Section 7.0.4.4 Discontinued Merit Badges

Scouts may not begin working on discontinued merit badges. If actual effort has already begun by the time discontinuation becomes effective, and work actively continues, then the badge may be completed and can count toward rank advancement, but presentation of the badge itself will be subject to availability. It is a misconception that discontinued merit badges may be earned as long as the patch and requirements can be found.