

# REGULATIONS FOR DELAWARE - MONTGOMERY COUNTIES COURTS OF HONOR

## **Purpose of Court**

The Court of Honor was instituted to provide a dependable body to review, to the extent it might deem necessary, the work done by a scout to obtain a merit badge and passed upon by an expert examiner previous to the appearance of the scout before the Court. As the range of subjects now covered by merit badges is so extensive and involves, in many cases, much special knowledge, it will often happen that no member of the Court is competent to pass upon the requirements for a badge. For this reason, the selection of efficient examiners becomes very important.

## **Composition of Court**

The Court of Honor should be composed of at least one representative from each troop in its district. The representative appointed by each troop may, preferably, be a troop committee man or any representative citizen over twenty-one years, but no scoutmaster or assistant scoutmaster may be a member of a Court.

The officers of the Court should consist of a Chairman, elected by the Court, and a Secretary, who should be the field executive of the district.

## **Time and Location of Meetings**

The Court should meet at least once in three months. The frequency of the meetings should be governed primarily by the number of merit badges to be passed, as it is desirable that there should be sufficient time for proper consideration of each badge, and that, both for the sake of the boy and for the Court itself, no meeting be prolonged beyond 9.30 P.M. It is also desirable that one month's notice, if possible, be given of the time for the Court meeting. This question of advance notice may often be satisfactorily settled by planning in advance each year for a definite schedule of meeting times.

Written notice of the Court meeting should be sent out to each scoutmaster and Court member by the Secretary.

Wherever possible, the meetings of the Court should be held in turn at different towns within the district, but where there are one or two locations offering special advantages for a Court meeting, such locations should have the greater use.

### Conduct of Meeting

The members of the Court should be seated in front of a table, or tables, provided with pen and ink and one or more pads of scratch paper. Wherever possible, the scouts should be in an adjoining room, each scout being sent for in turn, preference being given to the scouts coming from the greatest distances, in order that they may leave for home as early as possible.

If there is a large number of scouts to be examined, each for several merit badges, a list of these badges in advance of calling on the scouts may prove of advantage. Where quite a number of badges are to be passed upon it might be advisable to divide the members of the Court that are present into several groups, thereby creating several Courts, and so expedite matters.

The scout (on entering or leaving the room) should salute the Court and stand at attention. He is expected to wear his scout uniform or present a satisfactory reason for its absence.

When the Court has completed questioning the scout upon all the subjects for which he is applying for merit badge, the Chairman should ask the members whether they are ready to pass upon the approval of these badges. If a member has any doubt as to the advisability of approving any one of these badges, the scout should be asked to withdraw from the room and told that he will be informed later on the decision of the Court. On his withdrawal, the Court will proceed to discuss his case.

### Merit Badge Requirements

It seems advisable to limit the number of merit badge applications that may be passed by any scout at any one meeting of the Court. This number cannot exceed five (excluding Life, Star and Eagle application) and may, at the discretion of any individual Court, after one month's notice has been given to the scoutmasters, be fixed at not more than three. No merit badge will be accepted by the

Court of Honor after two regular meetings of the Court have elapsed from the time of passing badge before expert examiner unless the Court be satisfied with the reason given by the scout for his delay in presentation. Each merit badge application, *before* presentation to the Court, should be properly filled out by the scout and signed by the scoutmaster and by the expert examiner, with dates for each signature. The attention of scoutmasters is particularly called to this matter. Applications must be mailed to the Secretary of the Court seven days before meeting is held. No other applications will be considered at such meeting.

The scout should produce, for the examination of the Court, any writing or portable article forming part of the examination before the expert examiner. A photograph will be accepted in lieu of an article to be brought to the meeting, or if the scout notifies the Chairman one week in advance of the meeting, the Chairman should arrange to have the article inspected in advance of the meeting by a member of the Court.

When "satisfactory evidence" is called for, i. e., in case of school attendance or standing, a written statement from principal or teacher of the school must be presented by the applicant. Only a statement will be considered satisfactory by the Court.

Merit Badges in Cycling, Hiking, etc., call for specified distance to be covered in given time. Bona fide evidence should be presented showing that all conditions have been fulfilled.

The extent of the questioning of the scout by the Court will naturally vary with subjects and with the knowledge shown by the scout, as where a scout gives imperfect answers to the first questions, the tendency on the part of the Court should be to give him an opportunity to show more proficiency on other phases of the subject. A standard of 85 per cent is sufficient to pass, and effort should be given proper recognition. All questions must be based strictly on the requirements of the Handbook.

All applicants for the Eagle Badge must be able to answer any questions contained in the Merit Badge tests previously passed by him to become an Eagle Scout. This review serves to satisfy the Court as to the scout's fitness for honors that he is about to receive.

The Secretary shall, after they are signed by the Chairman, take the merit badge applications approved by the Court, and send applications along with form No. 700 and local council report (both in duplicate) to Scout Headquarters, 704 Real Estate Trust Building, Philadelphia, immediately after the meeting. Headquarters will send the badges to the Scoutmaster, who will present them directly to the scout, preferably at some public gathering.

### **Expert Examiners**

The expert examiners for each Court should be selected with all possible care. Suggestions as to these examiners should be asked for by the Chairman of the Court from each member and scoutmaster and from any other available source. On subjects such as personal and public health it is quite desirable that the examiner be a registered physician. The character and qualifications of each examiner should be investigated as far as possible, and each examiner as finally decided upon should be written to by either the Chairman or the Secretary of the Court, notifying him of his appointment. No expert examiner will be permitted to serve as examiner in more than *five* subjects unless special permission is received from the Counties Court.

The expert examiner must not be a Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster, or any member of the family of the scout examined.