

STAR AWARDS

Guidelines for Evaluation



The “Star Award Scheme” is not only to recognise troops and patrols who have met the criteria of good scouting and the patrol system but also as a tool for Scouters, Commissioners and Provincial / National Staff to be able to identify weak areas and take the appropriate action to correct them.

The star year runs from the 1st October till the 30th September. Every troop and patrol must be assessed early in the year after which the evaluator advises the troops and the patrols on how to overcome their weaknesses and achieve the “gold star”. The requirements should be discussed with the Troop Scouters at District meetings during October & November. The first evaluation by the A.D.C. or D.C should be carried out during April and May. The results should be entered in the first column on the form with details in the details column, on how to achieve yes for that task. The second evaluation should be carried out during October and November and entered in the second column with comments and venues of hikes’ etc. in the “comments and details” column. The forms must then be sent to the APC Scout Programme for your province not later than the 10th November. The APC in turn checks the forms and records the results for his/her own use when planning the strategy for the next year. He/she then forwards the forms, a copy of his/her record sheet and his comments to the National Commissioner for Scout programme to reach SAHQ not later than 9th December.



Summary

- 1) The evaluation period is from 1st October to 30th September each year.
- 2) The D.C. or A.D.C (Scout Programme) should carry out the two evaluations as part of their quarterly troop visits. The same evaluator should carry out both evaluations. The Scouter **can not** carry out his own evaluation.
- 3) The evaluations should be carried out in March/April & October/November.
- 4) The evaluation form should be used as a guide for ongoing discussion between the Troop Scouters, the District and the APC Scout Programme..
- 5) The comment column must be used for details of successes and shortcomings, which should be discussed in detail with the Troop Scouter and Patrol Leaders.
- 6) The certificates should be handed out by the A.D.C. or D.C at a Group or Troop Event.
- 7) The award is for achieving minimum standards and is not a “Glory” award.
- 8) Every Troop and Patrol must be inspected and the forms submitted even if no “YES” answers are achieved. The Chief Scout has indicated that any reluctance to be inspected should be investigated by the DC and APC Scout Programme.
- 9) All forms must be at Provincial Headquarters by the 10th November.
- 10) All forms must be at National HQ by the 9th December.
- 11) Star Patrol forms should be printed on blue paper and Star Troop forms on green.

Remember this is not a competition where troops must enter; it is part of the support given to the troops by the District and Province. Therefore, district staff must evaluate all troops and the patrols at least twice a year. This is not additional to, but forms part of the Assistant District Commissioner’s scout programme or District Commissioner’s quarterly visits to his troops.

Yours in Scouting

David van Eyk
National Commissioner for
Scout Programme

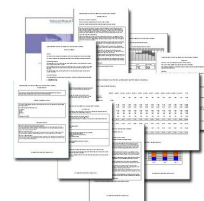


Star Troop Guidelines



1. **Outdoors:** - an outdoor adventure is an exciting, challenging experience, which is characterised by uncertainty of outcome and perceived risk. List under comments Examples could be a hike into new territory or a wide game away from the hall.
2. **Patrol Camping:** - emphasise its importance. Overnight hike camps may be included.
3. **Patrol System:** - Fundamental to Scouting. Every patrol to be evaluated for a patrol star. The standard of 8 out of 13, being sections 11 to 14 plus any 4 others on the patrol forms are compulsory requirements Patrols who have existed for less than 6 months only require any 4 sections this is to ensure that a new patrol would not prevent a troop reaching gold status.
4. **Troop Camping:** - The nights do not have to be consecutive. More than 50% of the troop should have attended. Overnight Troop hikes may be included if not used under the outdoor section. The evaluator must comment on the variety of venues.
5. **Advancement:** - Advanced this year to a new level; Membership, Pathfinder, Adventurer, First Class, Explorer or Springbok.
6. **Interest Badges:** - Earned this year, this includes Scoutcraft badges.
7. **Participation:** -The troop must be represented by at least a patrol-sized group at events.
8. **Retention:** - Members lost through reasons beyond the control of the troop do not count against the troop. (e.g. Transfers out of the district or becoming 18 years old)
9. **Recruitment:** this may include cubs coming up and new recruits during the year.
10. **Number of Scouts:** - total number of registered scouts at the last day of September. Compare with census figures, there should not be a vast difference if so check inv. dates. Should be the same no. as top of evaluation sheet.
11. **Number of Scouters:** - 1 Warranted Scouter per 18 scouts. (e.g. If 19 scouts then 2 Scouters if 37 then 3 Scouters)
12. **Troop Records:** - records to be simple and up to date. All must be available for a “Yes”
13. **Communication:** - a simple display and printed newsletter used to publicise achievements and promote events. As well as up to date notice of time of meeting for public to see.

(For Bronze “Yes” answers to requirements 1 and either 2, 3 or 4 are compulsory plus 6 other requirements. For Silver requirements 1,2,3,4, are compulsory plus 7 other requirements. For Gold a “Yes” answer is required for all requirements.)



Star Patrol Guidelines

- 1 **Patrol Jobs:** - Jobs must be realistic, understood and functional and carried out during the year.
- 2 **Patrol Corners:** - Where permanent dens or corners not possible, a portable display is satisfactory
- 3 **Attendance Register:** - simple, up to date & on hand for both inspections.
- 4 **Attendance:** - must be recorded in the patrol register
- 5 **Visual Progress Chart:** - simple, up to date, on display
- 6 **Patrol Logbook:** - simple up to date and containing at least items for sections 1 to 3.
- 7 **Patrol Leader:** - must have passed the First Class Badge by the end of September.
- 8 **Patrol Second:** - must have passed the Adventurer Badge by the end of September.
- 9 **Numbers 3 & 4:** - must have passed the Pathfinder Badge by the end of September
- 10 **Number of scouts:** 6 or over for the year.
- 11 **Court Of Honour:** - record of attendance to be kept in COH minute book.
- 12 **Patrol Activities:** - must be recorded in logbook. PL was in charge. Defined as a gathering of a patrol to carry out an activity as a patrol. Does not include activities credited in sections 1 & 2.
- 13 **Patrol Hikes:** - must be recorded in logbook. PL was in charge. Not necessary overnight but at least 4 hours on the actual hike. Be defined as a gathering of a patrol.
- 14 **Patrol Camps or overnight hikes:** - must be recorded in logbook. PL was in sole charge. At least overnight. If patrol exceeds 2 overnight hikes then the extra ones may be credited to section 13. Be defined as a gathering of a patrol.

Minimum patrol attendance at activities to qualify, must be either 4 scout out of a patrol of 6, 5 of 7 or 6 of 8

(Remember to qualify for a bronze award the patrol must qualify in at least requirement 12 and either 13 or 14 and 7 other sections For Silver requirements 12,13,14 is compulsory plus any 9 other requirements, For Gold all answers must be “yes”)

