

# Best Practice- Quartermaster Bridge of Review



“4.4.2.5 Particulars for the Quartermaster Rank with the few exceptions listed below, the particulars for handling boards of review for Quartermaster rank are identical to those for Eagle Scout boards of review. See “Particulars for the Eagle Scout Rank,” 8.0.3.0.” Guide to Advancement

Quartermaster reviews generally last 30 minutes or somewhat longer. This is the highest rank a Sea Scout can achieve. There should be a discussion of successes, experiences, and future plans, but rarely should one last longer than 45 minutes.

It is important that the board has an understanding the review’s importance and purpose, but it is also helpful if the members have some understanding of the unique requirements that must be achieved by a Quartermaster candidate.

In addition to carrying out a Quartermaster Service Project (recorded in the Quartermaster Service Project Workbook, 420-011), a Quartermaster candidate must conduct one of the following:

1. Take command of a vessel with a crew of not less than four Sea Scouts for at least 40 consecutive hours, including two nights. You must delegate and supervise all duties. During the cruise complete the following: File a float plan, inspect the vessel for required equipment; supervise all menu preparation; prepare the boat to get underway with a proper checklist approved by the adult leaders; anchor, dock, and maintain course by commands to the helmsman; remain underway for an extended period during darkness; and discuss appropriate nighttime running procedures. While underway, perform the following drills: man overboard, damage control, abandon ship, fire, collision, and any other drills used by your ship. During this cruise no substantial errors may be committed.
2. Plan and lead a paddlecraft cruise with at least four paddlecraft for at least two days. You must delegate and supervise all duties. During the cruise complete the following: Inspect the vessels and members of the group for required equipment; plan for provisions; supervise all menu preparation; prepare the boats to get underway with a proper checklist approved by the adult leaders; file a float plan. If on open water, prepare a navigation chart including at least three legs and/or course corrections. If on inland rivers, identify river access points and coordinate transportation at both ends of the trip. With an adult leader, inspect all vessels and evaluate whether they are adequately secured for transportation. During this cruise no substantial errors may be committed.
3. Successfully complete SEAL (Sea Scout Experience Advanced Leadership) training.

During the review, board members may refer to the *Sea Scout Manual*, *Guide to Advancement*, and other such references. (See 8.0.1.2 What Should Be Discussed.) A Sea Scout may be asked where skills were taught and mastered, and what was learned when fulfilling selected requirements. Discussion of how to live the Scout Oath and Scout Law in the home, unit, school, and community should be included. Both the Quartermaster service project and the cruising requirement need to be discussed during the review.

Ask questions related to the youth's Sea Scouting experience.

1. If you could do it all over again, would you, and why?
2. What advice would you give to a new Sea Scout?
3. If you could change one requirement for Quartermaster rank, what would it be? What would you add?
4. What is the moment you knew you wanted to earn Quartermaster?
5. What experience have you had in Sea Scouts that you wish every Sea Scout could have?
6. If you had to describe your entire Sea Scout experience with just one word, what word would you choose? Why?

Ask questions about the service project. The Board should make sure that a good standard of performance has been met.

1. What group benefited from the project?
2. How did you identify the need?
3. Ask the youth to walk the Board through the project from beginning to end.
4. What did you learn about leadership from your Quartermaster Service Project?
5. Who is harder to lead, youth or adults?

Ask the youth about the Quartermaster Cruise, Paddlecraft Cruise, or SEAL.

1. Where did you go?
2. What went well?
3. What was the most difficult part of the process?
4. What didn't go as planned?
5. What would you do differently if you could do it again?
6. What advice will you give to others in your ship that are pursuing Quartermaster?

Ask the youth about plans for the future.

1. Ask about future plans - college, armed forces, trade school, etc.
2. How has earning Quartermaster impacted your future plans?
3. What will you do as a Quartermaster to give back to Scouting and Sea Scouting?
4. What life lessons have you learned on your journey to Quartermaster? How do you think these lessons will help you in your future endeavors?
5. Where do you see yourself with Scouting in the next ten years?
6. One day you may have children of your own. What will you tell them about Sea Scouts?

These are by no means the only questions that may be asked. The interview should come to a natural conclusion as each board member runs out of questions.

After the board's review (See 8.0.1.5 After the Review.), one more question should be asked. What is the significance of this date in Sea Scout history? (Pause) It's the day you became Quartermaster.