How to Conduct a Scout Spirit Conference

Purpose: A Scout Spirit conference is a discussion with the scout on how they have lived according to the Scout Oath and Scout Law. The scout should be prepared to demonstrate thru the use of examples of how they have done so. This conference is also a great time to talk about what is expected of the scout to demonstrate Scout Spirit as the scout goes to the next rank.

1. The scout should request a Scout Spirit conference as part of Advancement; they do not have to do have all the other advancements completed before a Scout Spirit conference but we usually do the Scout Spirit conference in the same month as the Board of Review
2. Ask the scout to bring in 4 examples of living the Scout Oath and Scout Law
3. \*\*\*\*If you have a scout where we have some instances of known behavioral issues from past scoutmaster meeting discussions, get in touch with the Scoutmaster to discuss any issues. The Scoutmaster may want to handle this conference or sit in with you. The objective is not to deny the scout a rank advancement but to have a better discussion of what we have seen from the scout in living and demonstrating Scout Spirit. Cases of this are very rare.\*\*\*
4. Start the conference by asking the Scout what is Scout Spirit (living by the Oath and Law)
5. Go through the 4 examples; as a scout progresses upwards thru the ranks, the examples should be more meaningful. For example, being Helpful as a Tenderfoot can mean helping Mom around the house….as a Life Scout, the examples of being helpful around the house should be more concrete and more significant (cutting the grass, raking leaves, etc….all counting as one example of being helpful).
6. Scouts should offer a range of examples….not just 4 examples of being Helpful….especially in the later ranks. Ideally, they have examples that range from home, school, church, scouting, athletics and other pursuits and not just in one place.
7. Discuss the examples with them
8. Discuss if there are any areas of Scout Spirit where they have a harder time meeting the spirit of Scout Spirit.
9. As part of a Forward Looking conversation, discuss with them what they are going to do as part of the next rank. Is there an area they would like to do more (ie, a Scout Spirit goal for the next rank)? If so, write that goal into the scout spirit area for the next rank (“Focusing on Clean”) to help out the next Scoutmaster who does the Spirit conversation with the scout next time.
10. Tell the scout they have passed their Scout Spirit Conference and shake hands.
11. Initial and date the Scout Spirit box
12. Send a note to the Scoutmaster and Advancements saying you have completed a Scout Spirit conference for rank XXX with scout YYY so the online system can be updated as well