

Earning Merit Badges

Boy Scout merit badges give scouts the opportunity to investigate over 130 different areas of knowledge and skills. The merit badge program plays a major role in the scouting advancement program and participation can begin as soon as a scout registers with a troop. Each scout can explore topics from American Business to Woodworking as he has interest. The only limitations are his ambition and availability of adult merit badge counselors to offer instruction.

1. Make a plan on the badges you want to earn including Eagle-required and set goals and a schedule.
2. Pick a Subject/Merit badge that interests you. Read the requirements.
3. Find a Buddy. You must not meet one on one with any adult. And it is more fun, too!
4. Fill out the information on the Merit Badge Application. **The Blue Card.**
5. Talk to your Scoutmaster about your interest and who your counselor will be before you start; have him sign your card before you start work.
6. See the troop librarian for help to find Merit Badge Counselor for your merit badge and check out a Merit Badge Pamphlet. If the troop library does not have MBP that you need, inform him so the troop can purchase it or you may obtain it from the Scout store.
7. Make arrangements to meet with the Merit Badge Counselor. With your MBC, plan a meeting schedule that is beneficial to everyone. These meetings are to take place outside the troop meetings. The counselor provides expertise, advice, guidance as needed until you have completed the requirements.
8. Complete the requirements. Have Fun!
9. Show your Stuff! When your counselor is satisfied you have met all the requirements - demonstrated, listed, performed, identified, etc. to the best of your ability, he/she will sign your application in two places. Before and/or after troop meetings (or by appointment) are the times for signing MB requirements. Troop meetings are for troop business.
10. Show the completed blue card to your Scoutmaster and have him **SIGN** your card.
11. Turn in completed MB cards to the troop Advancement Coordinator.
12. You will receive your Merit Badge Card, patch and your copy of the blue card at the next Court of Honor. Pamphlets: An official Boy Scout merit badge pamphlet has been created for the BSA by topic authorities for each merit badge. The pamphlets contain requirements, introductory information and supplemental reference text. A scout can purchase pamphlets from BSA, find them in a troop library, or often-times check them out from a public library. There is also a Requirements Booklet with a merit badge list for quick reference.