

Merit Badge Request



Troop 562

"Best of the Best"

Scout Information

Name _____

Rank _____

Patrol _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Merit Badge Information

Merit Badge _____

Counselor Name _____

Counselor Address _____

Counselor Phone _____

Scoutmaster Approval

☐ Scout is approved to pursue Merit Badge

Scoutmaster Signature

Date

Applicant:
Please review instructions on page 2

Troop 562
First United Methodist Church
Slidell, LA

Merit Badge Instructions for the Applicant

- Determine the Merit Badge you wish to pursue. You should be familiar with the requirements and prerequisites before submitting the Merit Badge Request form.
- Complete the Merit Badge Request Form and submit it to a Scoutmaster at a regular Troop Meeting or PLC. The Scoutmaster will review the request with the Scout and upon approval, will submit the form to the Advancement Chair.
- If the Scout is utilizing a Counselor outside the Troop, the Scoutmaster will provide the Scout with a BSA Merit Badge Application (Blue Card).
- The Scout should go to http://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Main_Page, search out the merit badge in question and download or print out the merit badge worksheet for the chosen merit badge.
- For Merit Badges where Scoutmasters or Troop Leadership is serving as the counselor, as the Scout completes the various requirements, he should document this using the worksheet from the MeritBadge.org website.
- For Merit Badges with outside Counselors, once the Scout has completed all requirements to the Counselor's satisfaction, they will sign the Blue Card and the Scout will turn that in to the Scoutmaster at a regular Troop Meeting or PLC. The Scoutmaster will then turn the Blue Card in to the Advancement Chair.

Information for Applicant

- A merit badge application (Blue Card) can be approved only by a registered merit badge counselor. Your Troop Leadership will provide you with a list of approved counselors for Merit Badges being pursued outside of the Troop.
- You must have a buddy or parent with you (Scout buddy system) at each meeting with the merit badge counselor.
- Turn in your approved application (Blue Card) to your unit leader. You will be awarded the merit badge emblem at the next regular Troop Meeting.

Information for the Counselor

As a merit badge counselor, your mission is to join fun with learning. You are both a teacher and mentor as the Scout works on a merit badge and learns by doing. Your hands-on involvement could inspire a Scout to develop a lifelong hobby, pursue a particular career, or become an independent, self-supporting adult. A Scout first expresses an interest in a particular merit badge by letting his unit leader know. To get him started, the leader gives him a signed Application for Merit Badge (blue card) along with the name and contact information for a district/council approved merit badge counselor. The Scout then contacts the merit badge counselor and makes an appointment. The merit badge counselor sets a date and time to meet with the Scout and his buddy, and may suggest the Scout bring the merit badge pamphlet along with the blue card.

At the first meeting, the Scout and his merit badge counselor review and set expectations for completing the requirements. In some cases, the Scout may share with the merit badge counselor the work he has already started or accomplished. As the merit badge counselor, you and the Scout work out a tentative schedule for completing the merit badge. You should consider both short-term and long-term goals, keeping other obligations (school, Scouting, sports, and so on) in mind, and set dates, times, and a location for future meetings. The number of meetings will depend on the difficulty of the requirements and the preparation and ability of the Scout. Remember, the Scout must always have a buddy with him at these meetings.

Your duty is to be satisfied that each Scout who comes to you meets all the requirements for the merit badge you are coaching. You do this by helping Scouts overcome the different hurdles of the requirements and making them aware of the deeper aspects of the subject through their learning experience. You may tell about your own experiences to help positively reinforce the subject matter. However, you may not tack on new requirements or extra work. While you may guide and instruct a Scout on the subject matter, he must do the work himself.

As each requirement is completed, you will test the Scout individually, with his buddy present. Update the blue card as the Scout completes each requirement. When the young man has completed all the requirements, you sign off on the card and the Scout returns the completed card to his unit leader.

You may wish to seek additional training from your local council/district on local policies and procedures for merit badge counselors.

Helpful Hints

Here are some simple tips that every merit badge counselor should keep in mind.

- Make the Scout feel welcome and relaxed.
- Stimulate the Scout's interest by showing him something related to the merit badge subject, but don't overwhelm him; remember, he is probably a beginner.
- Carefully review each requirement, start with easy skills or questions, and encourage practice.
- Insist that the Scout do exactly what the requirements specify. Many of the requirements involve hands-on activities that call for a Scout to show or demonstrate; make; list; discuss; or collect, identify, and label—and he must do just that.
- Don't make the requirement more difficult—or any easier—than stated. A Scout may undertake more activities on his own initiative, but he cannot be pushed to do so.
- During testing, the Scout might need help in a particular area or with a certain skill, and may need to be retested later to ensure the requirement has been fulfilled.
- Encourage self-evaluation and self-reflection, and establish an atmosphere that encourages the Scout to ask for help.
- Take a genuine interest in the Scout's projects, and encourage completion.