



MERIT BADGES

1. Merit Badge requirements are found in the Merit Badge pamphlet or you can view them on the Internet by going to www.meritbadge.com.
2. Merit Badge pamphlets are available for each subject for which a badge is offered.
 - ? Pamphlets may be purchased by the Scout.
 - ? Pamphlets are available from the local library.
 - ? Pamphlets are available from the Troop library.
3. When you have an interest in a Merit Badge, you indicate this interest to the Scoutmaster who then:
 - ? Will conduct a short interview to determine your interest, enthusiasm and preparedness,
 - ? Will give you a signed Merit Badge application indicating approval to proceed toward the Merit Badge,
 - ? Will give you the name, phone number and address of a Counselor (your Troop Librarian also has this information),
 - ? Will encourage you to wear the official Scout uniform when you visit the Counselor.

(PLEASE NOTE THAT YOU MAY NOT PROCEED WITH A MERIT BADGE WITHOUT THE SIGNATURE OF THE SCOUTMASTER ON THE MERIT BADGE APPLICATION “BLUE CARD”)
4. You then call the Merit Badge Counselor and make an appointment.
5. The Merit Badge Counselor sets the date and the hour for your visit and suggests what you should bring with you:
 - ? Merit Badge pamphlet
 - ? Signed application (Blue Card) by the Scoutmaster
 - ? Any projects or paperwork which you may have started or finished
 - ? Any other indication of preparedness
6. At the first interview, you and the Counselor decide upon:
 - ? Projects to perform or complete,
 - ? Short term and long term goals with dates of completion in mind,
 - ? Dates and time for further interviews.

7. The number of counseling sessions depends on the difficulty of the subject and your preparedness and ability.
8. As much as possible, you are counseled and tested individually.
9. You are expected to meet the requirements as stated – no more and no less.
10. The Merit Badge Counselor will assist you to meet the requirements and certify that you have completed them by signing the application, tearing off his/her portion of the application and returning the remainder to you.
11. You then present the remaining application to the Scoutmaster for his final signature. One portion is torn off for the records and the remaining portion is yours for your permanent records. Your merit badge will then be presented to you at the next earliest opportunity along with a merit badge card for your files.

Cautions and Tips

- ? Make sure that you are never alone with a Counselor. Either bring a friend along or make sure that the Counselor has another adult with him/her.
- ? When you make the appointment with the Counselor, find out what uniform is required by the Counselor, Class “A” or Class “B”.
- ? Keep your signed portion of the application in a safe place. This is your official proof that you have completed the Merit Badge. You may need this for proof later as you apply for Eagle in case the records are inaccurate
- ? If you have attended Summer Camp or Merit Badge College and come away with a partially completed merit badge (a partial), you must first meet with the Scoutmaster to obtain the name of an appropriate Merit Badge Counselor who will work with you on completing the merit badge.
- ? **Have Fun! Be Prepared!**