

Merit Badges

Procedures

1. **Pick a Subject.** A scout decides he would like to earn a specific merit badge. He can do this by:
 - a. Looking at the merit badge pamphlet in the Troop library
 - b. Looking on-line at <http://www.usscouts.org/meritbadges.asp> or <http://www.boyscouttrail.com/boy-scouts/merit-badges.asp#merit%20badge%20process>
 - c. Talking to his Scoutmaster about his interest.
2. **Get a Merit Badge Pamphlet.** The scout can check out the pamphlet from the troop, school, or public libraries or can purchase it at the Council's Scout Shop.
3. **Get a Blue Card.** A scout obtains approval to begin the merit badge from his Scoutmaster who provides and signs a blue card.
4. **Get a Scout Buddy.** To follow safe scouting guidelines, the scout identifies another scout that will be his partner, a parent or guardian, a brother or sister, a relative, or a friend or makes sure that there will be another adult when he attends the meetings with the counselor. *You must have another person with you at each meeting with the merit badge counselor.*
5. **Find a Counselor.** The Scout can find a counselor from a directory of counselors:
 - a. Within the troop at www.troop271.com
 - b. Outside the troop at <http://www.sdicbsa.org/advancement/mbadges/counselors/default.asp>
6. **Call the Counselor.** The Scout then contacts the counselor to begin badge work. Tell him or her that you want to earn the merit badge.
7. **Have a First Meeting.** At the first meeting, the counselor usually reviews the requirements with the scouts and they decide on projects to complete and a completion schedule. The counselor may explain what he expects and start helping you meet the requirements.
8. **Learn and Complete the Requirements.** When you know what is expected, start to learn and do the things required. Ask your counselor to help you learn the things you need to know or do. *You should read the merit badge pamphlet on the subject.* You are expected to meet the requirements as they are stated --- no more and no less. You are expected to do exactly what is stated in the requirements. If it says "show or demonstrate," that is what you must do. Just telling about it isn't enough. The same thing holds true for such words as "make," "list," "in the field," and "collect," "identify," and "label."
9. **Have Follow-on Meetings to Show Your Stuff.** When you are ready, call the counselor again to make an appointment to meet the requirements. When you go take along:
 - a. *The things* you have made to meet the requirements.
 - b. If they are too big to move, take *pictures* OR
 - c. Have an *adult tell in writing* what you have done

The counselor will ask you to do each requirement to make sure that you know your stuff and have done or can do the things required. The counselor provides expertise, advice, guidance as needed until the scouts have completed the requirements. The counselor may sign-off individual requirements as the Scout completes them. When the counselor is satisfied that you have met each requirement, he or she will sign your Blue Card application. The counselor will detach the appropriate portion and retain it.

10. **Get SM Approval.** The Scout then get a signature on his Blue Card from his Scoutmaster.
11. **Give Blue Card to Troop Records Coordinator.** Troop Records Coordinator must receive all merit badge cards *at least 2 weeks prior to the Court of Honor.* The scout turns in the 2

remaining portions of the blue card to Troop Records Coordinator at a troop meeting. He or she will only accept merit badge cards that are completely filled out. If he or she is not at the troop meeting, call her to make arrangements to turn in the completed cards. The scout portion of the merit badge card will be returned to him at the next Court of Honor when merit badge patches are awarded.

12. **Get the Badge.** The merit badge patch along with the Scout portion of the merit badge is presented at a court of honor or troop meeting. It is important that the scout retain his portion of all merit badges earned in a safe place. These may be needed when applying for Eagle.