

# Boy Scouts of America

## The MERIT BADGE

# The Scout and the Merit Badge Program

# Getting Started

The Scout first must Pick A Subject

The Scout must talk with the Scoutmaster about his interests

Read the requirements of different merit badges  
in the area of interest

Pick one to earn

The Scoutmaster will give the Scout the name of  
a person from a list of counselors

These counselors have special knowledge  
in their merit badge subjects and are interested in helping

# Be Prepared

- Scout to bring to the meeting -
  - MB pamphlet
  - Signed application
  - Started projects
- Other indications of preparedness
- Arrive in Full Scout Uniform

# Scout Buddy System

*A Scout must have another person with him at each meeting with the merit badge counselor*

**This person can be another Scout, his parents or guardian, a brother or sister, a relative, or a friend.**

# Contact the Counselor

Get a *signed* Blue Card from the Scoutmaster

Contact the merit badge counselor for the proper badge

The counselor may ask for the Scout to come and see him

The counselor should explain prior expectations for the badge

The counselor must teach the Scout and help him learn

The counselor may need to meet with the Scout more than twice

The Counselor should read the Merit Badge book on the subject and know the requirements

# Execute

**Upon completion of the merit badge the counselor is contacted**

**An appointment to meet the Merit Badge requirements**

**Necessary items must be present to meet the requirements**

**Bring pictures or provide a written document if necessary items are not available**

**The counselor will review each requirement**

**Upon proof of completion the Blue Card will be signed**

# Obtaining the Badge

When the counselor is satisfied that the Scout has met each requirement, the Blue Card will be signed

The counselor will remove one card and keep it for his or her records

The two remaining cards will be given to the Scout

The Scout will give the two remaining Blue Cards to the Scoutmaster

The Scoutmaster will sign both cards and give one to the Scout and the other to the Advancement Chairman to secure the merit badge

# The MERIT BADGE COUNSELOR

# MERIT BADGE COUNSELORS REQUIREMENTS

To qualify as a Merit Badge Counselor, you must:

Be at least 18 years old

Be proficient in the merit badge subject by vocation or avocation

Be able to work with Scout-age boys

Be registered with the Boy Scouts of America

Complete and submit the BSA Merit Badge Counselor Information Form (No. 33405), indicating which Merit badges you wish to counsel

# MERIT BADGE COUNSELORS Commitment

As a Merit Badge Counselor, you must agree to

Follow the requirements of the merit badge, making no deletions or additions, ensuring that the advancement standards are fair and uniform for all Scouts

Have a Scout and his buddy present at all instructional sessions

Renew your registration annually if you plan to continue as a Merit Badge Counselor

# Counseling Techniques

**Put the Scout at ease**

**Review each requirement**

**Assistance when reviewing completed requirements**

**May teach more than required**

**Scout may do more than required**

**Practice while learning**

**Keep It Simple**

# **First Meeting With Scout**

**Discuss the merit badge and how you relate  
Skills – Education – Knowledge**

**Find out why the Scout chose this badge  
Career interest – Thinks it will be fun - Relationship**

**Decide upon Projects and Goals**

**Let him know you look forward to his success and  
Working with him on the merit badge**

# **Additional Meeting With Scout**

**Discuss areas of challenge or difficulty  
Skills – Education – Knowledge**

**Help Scout overcome obstacles or issues**

**Provide instruction, Direction, Coaching and Encouragement**

**Be available for additional meetings if necessary**

# **No More and No Less**

**The Scout is expected to meet the requirements as stated**

**--- no more and no less ---**

**The Scout is expected to do exactly what is stated in the requirements**

**If it says "show or demonstrate," that is what the Scout 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."**

# National's Position on Merit Badge Training

**"To the fullest extent possible, the merit badge counseling relationship is a counselor-Scout arrangement in which the boy is not only judged on his performance of the requirements, but receives maximum benefit from the knowledge, skill, character, and personal interest of this counselor. Group instruction and orientation are encouraged where special facilities and expert personnel make this most practical, or when Scouts are dependent on only a few counselors for assistance. However, this group experience should be followed by attention to each individual candidate's projects and his ability to fulfill all requirements."**

# TO REGISTER AS A SCOUTER

**For administrative purposes, Boy Scouts of America requires all merit badge counselors to register with their local council, by submitting an Adult Registration Application, No. 28-501. If you are registering solely to serve as a merit badge counselor, there is no fee.**

# Foundation of the Program

# Purpose

**Merit Badges are basic character-developing tools**

**Scouts learn career skills**

**Scouts develop physical fitness and hobbies that give a lifetime of healthful recreation.**

**Contact with adults who have experience in areas that the Scout would normally not be exposed to or acquainted with**

# Categories

**AGRIBUSINESS**  
**ARTS AND CRAFTS**  
**BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY**  
**CONSERVATION**  
**HOBBIES**  
**NATURAL SCIENCE**  
**COMMUNICATIONS**  
**PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT**  
**PHYSICAL SCIENCE**  
**PROFESSIONS**  
**PUBLIC SERVICE**  
**SPORTS**  
**TRADES**  
**TRANSPORTATION**

# Merit Badges

Number of Available Merit Badges a Scout can obtain - 120

## Eagle Required

- First Aid
- Citizenship in the Community
- Citizenship in the Nation
- Citizenship in the World
- Communications
- Personal Fitness
- Emergency Preparedness or Life Saving
- Environmental Science
- Personal Management
- Swimming or Hiking or Cycling
- Family Life
- Camping

## Badges for Eagle

12 Eagle Required  
9 Electives