

Troop 121

Merit Badge Process

- 1) A scout comes goes to the Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster or Advancement Chairperson for a blue card to start a merit badge
- 2) Once the scout is given the approval and the blue card he obtains a scout book from the local scout shop
- 3) The scout either contacts a merit badge counselor to start the merit badge or shows up at a meeting or event where the merit badge is being offered.
- 4) Each time the scout completes an item in the merit badge book he has the counselor sign off. If the counselor does not sign off on an item completed then the item is still outstanding. If the scout fails to accomplish this immediately then the solution is for the scout to go back and meet with the counselor at a later date to have the item or items signed off, which sometimes can be challenging.
- 5) If the counselor is not present when the item is completed, then the scout may need to take proof of completion. Remember a scout is Trustworthy!
- 6) Once all of the items are completed the scout has to have the merit badge counselor sign a section of the blue card to reflect this and then the scoutmaster reviews the card for completion and provides the final signature.
- 7) There are three segments to a merit badge card.
 - a) The scouts segment. This should be kept right up until the scouts 18th birthday and in a safe place
 - b) The counselors segment. This should be kept right up until the scouts 18th birthday and in a safe place
 - c) The Counsels segment. This card goes to the Troop 121 Advancement Chairperson, in our case Penny Saddington, so that the card can be recorded properly with council. When this happens the scout gets credit for the work he has completed and a merit badge is purchased to be awarded at the next Court of Honor.
- 8) Errors occur at council when recording data. We review the data we send in often to insure that it gets recorded properly. This is no guarantee that when your scout comes up for Eagle that something maybe missing or recorded incorrectly. This is why the scout and the counselor must keep the blue cards until the scout turns 18.