

MERIT BADGES & BLUE CARDS

The Process

A Scout may start merit badges at any time though they're not required until Star, Life, and Eagle ranks. Although most Scouts earn most of their badges at summer camp and Council workshops, that's not the only way to earn them. This process should be carried out entirely by the Scout. The procedure for earning a merit badge outside of a merit badge camp or class is as follows:

1. Before beginning Merit Badge, Scouts get a signed blue card from Scoutmaster or Assistant Scoutmaster. The blue card is the authorization for Scout to begin work on the merit badge. Scoutmaster can give you the name of a merit badge counselor from the Black River District Counselor database for the badge you want to earn.

Please note: you'll make life easier for our Scoutmaster if you fill out as much of the front of Part C as possible (see diagram of blue card). Our district is "Black River" and our council is "Patriots Path." Scoutmaster completes and signs the back of Part B and signs the front of Part C.

<p>Information for Applicant</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A merit badge application can be approved only by a registered merit badge counselor. You must have a buddy with you (Scout buddy system) at each meeting with the merit badge counselor. Turn in your approved application to your unit leader. You will be awarded the merit badge emblem and certificate at a suitable occasion. <p>Information for Counselor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merit badge applications must be signed in advance by the applicant's unit leader. The Scout must have his buddy (Scout buddy system) in attendance at all instructional sessions. You may not change any requirement, but you may share your knowledge or experience that will make the counseling more interesting and valuable. <p>#34124A</p> 	<table border="1"> <tr><td>Counselor Initial</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Date of approval</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Requirement No. and letter</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Counselor Initial</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Date of approval</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Requirement No. and letter</td><td></td></tr> </table>	Counselor Initial		Date of approval		Requirement No. and letter		Counselor Initial		Date of approval		Requirement No. and letter		<p style="text-align: center;">APPLICATION FOR MERIT BADGE</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Address _____</p> <p>City _____</p> <p>Is a registered <input type="checkbox"/> Boy Scout <input type="checkbox"/> Varsity Scout <input type="checkbox"/> Venturer of _____ Troop, team, crew, ship No. _____</p> <p>District _____</p> <p>Council _____</p> <p>and is qualified to begin working for merit badge noted on the reverse side.</p> <p>Date _____ Signature of unit leader _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®</p> <p>#34124A 2003 Boy Scouts of America</p>
Counselor Initial														
Date of approval														
Requirement No. and letter														
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Front of card

Part A
kept by counselor

Part B
presented to scout with badge; he should keep

Part C
kept by troop advancement recordkeeper

Back of card

<p>COUNSELOR'S RECORD</p> <p>Applicant _____</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Troop <input type="checkbox"/> Team <input type="checkbox"/> Crew</p> <p>Unit number _____</p> <p>Merit badge _____</p> <p>Date completed ____/____/____</p> <p>Remarks _____</p> <p><small>It is suggested that the counselor keep this record for at least 1 year in case any question is raised later in regard to this award.</small></p>	<p>APPLICANT'S RECORD</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>has given me his completed application for the _____ Merit badge</p> <p>Completed on ____/____/____ by _____</p> <p>Signature of counselor _____</p> <p>Signature of unit leader _____</p> <p><small>NOTE TO BOY SCOUT, VARSITY SCOUT, OR VENTURER: Retain this copy for your permanent record.</small></p>	<p>The applicant has personally appeared before me and demonstrated to my satisfaction that he has met all requirements for the (please print) _____ Merit badge</p> <p>Name of counselor _____</p> <p>Address of counselor _____</p> <p>City _____ Zip code _____</p> <p>Telephone number of counselor _____</p> <p>Signature of counselor _____ Date _____</p> <p>Checked and recorded: _____</p> <p>Date _____ Initials _____</p> <p>Certificate and badge presented _____ Date _____</p> <p><small>Applicant will turn in this portion to his unit leader for record posting.</small></p>
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2. Contact the merit badge counselor via phone. Tell them your name and the badge that you would like for them to help you with. Please remember to be polite in all dealings with counselors. They are generous to give their time and skill in order to help you advance. They get no rewards or compensation for their time other than your thank-you. The counselor will instruct you on how the requirements should be completed. ***You must always meet with the counselor with a buddy such as another Scout, parent or friend. Never meet with the counselor alone.*
3. Give your counselor the signed blue card. As you complete the requirements, the counselor will initial and date the specific requirement (see the front of Part B in the diagram) to show that you have completed it.
4. Counselor after all requirements have been completed:
 - *Completes and keeps Part A of the card for their records;*
 - *Signs the back of Part B where it asks for "signature of counselor";*
 - *Completes and signs the back of Part C (top section);*
 - *Gives the Scout the rest of the card (Parts B and C).*
5. Give the completed card (Parts B and C) to Troop Advancement Coordinator. It is Scout's responsibility to make sure the blue card is completed and submitted. No merit badges will be awarded without a completed blue card.
6. Troop Advancement Coordinator:
 - *Submits an online update to the council's advancement records;*
 - *Keeps Part C as part of the Troop's permanent merit badge records;*
 - *Instructs Scout to keep Part B.*
7. Merit badges will be presented at the next Court of Honor. Keep all of your blue cards in an organized place, such as the clear plastic binder sheets that are designed for baseball cards. When it's time to earn advanced ranks such as Life and Eagle, you may need to show your blue cards as proof of the merit badges you've earned.

One final note: Scouts may earn "Partial" Merit Badges, meaning that some, not all the requirements were satisfied in the course of the class, such as a week at summer camp. Partial Merit Badges do not expire and may be completed at a later time. The only way to verify completed requirements to the counselor Scout seeks out to finish the badge with, is with the Partial Blue Card showing which requirements were completed to that point. Treat this like cash in that if it gets lost there is no way to replace it.