

How to Earn a Merit Badge

This is the recommended process to earn a merit badge.¹

1. Decide which merit badge you want to work on. You can read about them online at www.meritbadge.org.
2. Talk to the Scoutmaster about your plan and ask for a signed blue card to begin the process. Keep the blue card in a safe place!
3. Call the merit badge counselor to tell him or her about your plan and projected timeframe for completing the merit badge and to see if there are any special considerations to keep in mind. Look on the troop website for a list of counselors for the selected merit badge.

www.wp230.com
(ID) troop230
(Password) tr00p23o (two zeros in troop and a lower-case o in 230)
4. Obtain a copy of the merit badge pamphlet. These can be checked out from the troop closet, borrowed from another scout's personal library, or purchased at the Scout Shop.
5. Read the pamphlet thoroughly to learn the information required to complete the merit badge requirements. The requirements for the merit badge are listed in the front of the merit badge pamphlet. They can also be viewed online; however, you must read the pamphlet to guide you as you work on your merit badge.
6. Keep a record of the requirements you have completed. In many cases, you will need to write paragraphs or speeches, take notes at a city council meeting, correspond with senators or other experts, collect data or samples, and so on.
 - ▶ A binder or folder is a good place to keep all of your materials—you will need these materials when you meet with your merit badge counselor to have requirements signed off!
 - ▶ Another tool that might help you stay on track includes the Merit Badge Worksheet for each merit badge available from www.meritbadge.org.
 - ▶ Please note that merit badges required for the rank of Eagle are considerably more difficult than for general merit badge topics. They also are more complex and likely require many weeks or months to complete.
 - ▶ Scouts are expected to do “no more and no less” than the requirements in the merit badge pamphlets and this is what merit badge counselors will go over with you.
7. Call your merit badge counselor to set up a mutually convenient time to go over the merit badge requirements and what you've learned. If all the requirements have been completed satisfactorily, the merit badge counselor will sign off on your blue card. He or she will keep the “Counselor's Record” portion of the blue card and will return the “Applicant's Record” and Application for Merit Badge” portion to you.
8. Turn in the “Application for Merit Badge” to the Advancement Chairperson or the Scoutmaster. You will receive the merit badge at the next Court of Honor. Courts of Honor are held approximately every 4 months.

¹ If you are attending a merit badge class at a scout meeting or other venue, you can be sure that the merit badge counselors are teaching the class according to the requirements of the merit badge pamphlet. Merit badge counselors have training or experience in specific merit badge topics, are registered with the BSA, and are approved by application to address specific merit badge topics.