

Merit Badges

From MeritBadgeDotOrg

Boy Scout Merit Badge resources include the the Merit Badge Worksheets, Online Blue Card, FAQ, maps, charts, links, checklists, and cross-references for related Merit Badges and Scout Awards.



Merit Badges are the second main area of the Boy Scout advancement program. Unlike ranks, there is a degree of choice in the merit badge program. A sub-group of merit badges are known as Eagle required merit badges. To earn Eagle Scout, most of these badges must be earned although some are "either/or" badges. The remainder of the badges help with earning ranks as well as Eagle Palms after the Eagle Scout award has been earned. The online Merit Badge Application is a Word doc file.

Boy Scouts may work on merit badges from the time they join a Scout troop until they turn 18 years old. There is no time limit for completion of merit badges other than age 18. See the [Merit Badge FAQ](#). [Some Merit Badges Require Prior Approval](#) before starting certain requirements. Most do not.

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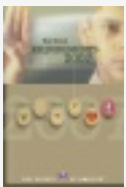
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Merit Badge Worksheets

Worksheets can help you organize notes, listen actively, find resources, and document your work.

Introduction



The *official* source for the information shown in this article or section is:
Boy Scout Requirements, 2009 Edition (BSA Supply No. 33216)

“ You can learn about sports, crafts, science, trades, business, and future careers as you earn merit badges. There are more than 100 merit badges. Any Boy Scout may earn any merit badge at any time. You don't need to have had rank advancement to be eligible.

Pick a Subject. Talk to your Scoutmaster about your interests. Read the requirements of the merit badges you think might interest you. Pick one to earn. Your Scoutmaster will give you 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 you.

Scout Buddy System. *You must have another person with you at each meeting with the merit badge counselor.* This person can be another Scout, your parents or guardian, a brother or sister or other relative, or a friend.

Call the Counselor. Get a *signed* merit badge application from your Scoutmaster. Get in touch with the merit badge counselor and tell him or her that you want to earn the merit badge. The counselor may ask to meet you to explain what is expected of you and to start helping you meet the requirements.

Updated in 2008 Printing

You should also discuss work that you have already started or possibly completed.

At the first meeting, you and your merit badge counselor will review and may start working on the requirements. In some cases, you may share with your counselor the work that you have already started or accomplished.

Unless otherwise specified, work for a requirement can be started at any time.

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. Many troops and school or public libraries have them. ([See the list here.](#))

Show Your Stuff. When you are ready, call the counselor again to make an appointment to meet the requirements. When you go take along the things you have made to meet the requirements. If they are too big to move, take pictures or 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.

Get the Badge. When the counselor is satisfied that you have met each requirement, he or she will sign your application. Give the signed application to your Scoutmaster so that your merit badge emblem can be secured for you.

Requirements. 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."

The requirements listed in this book are the official requirements of the Boy Scouts of America. However, the requirements on the following pages might not match those in the *Boy Scout Handbook* and the merit badge pamphlets, because this publication is updated only on an annual basis.

If a Scout has already started working on a merit badge when a new edition of the pamphlet is introduced, he may continue to use the same merit badge pamphlet and fulfill the requirements therein to earn the badge. He need not start all over again with the new pamphlet and possibly revised requirements.



“ Boy Scout awards are for young men not yet 18 years old. Merit badges, badges of rank, and Eagle Palms are for registered Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts, or qualified Venturers. Any registered Boy Scout or Varsity Scout may earn these awards until his 18th birthday. Any Venturer who achieves the First Class rank as a Boy Scout or Varsity Scout in a troop or team may continue working for the Star, Life, and Eagle Scout ranks and Eagle Palms while registered as a Venturer up to his 18th birthday. ”

— Advancement Policies #33088, p. 24

See: Merit Badges Requiring Prior Approval•, Merit Badge Policies, and Merit Badge FAQ for more information.

Click here for the Merit Badge Worksheets.

Lists of Merit Badges

<u>American Business</u>	<u>Engineering</u>	<u>Photography</u>
<u>American Cultures</u>	<u>Entrepreneurship</u>	<u>Pioneering</u>
<u>American Heritage</u>	<u>Environmental Science</u>	<u>Plant Science</u>
<u>American Labor</u>	<u>Family Life</u>	<u>Plumbing</u>
<u>Animal Science</u>	<u>Farm Mechanics</u>	<u>Pottery</u>
<u>Archaeology</u>	<u>Fingerprinting</u>	<u>Public Health</u>
<u>Archery</u>	<u>Fire Safety</u>	<u>Public Speaking</u>
<u>Architecture</u>	<u>First Aid</u>	<u>Pulp and Paper</u>
<u>Art</u>	<u>Fish and Wildlife</u>	<u>Radio</u>
<u>Astronomy</u>	<u>Management</u>	<u>Railroading</u>
<u>Athletics</u>	<u>Fishing</u>	<u>Reading</u>
<u>Automotive Maintenance</u>	<u>Fly Fishing</u>	<u>Reptile and Amphibian</u>
<u>Aviation</u>	<u>Forestry</u>	<u>Study</u>
<u>Backpacking</u>	<u>Gardening</u>	<u>Rifle Shooting</u>

Basketry

Bird Study

Bugling

Camping

Canoeing

Chemistry

Cinematography

Citizenship in the

Community

Citizenship in the Nation

Citizenship in the World

Climbing

Coin Collecting

Collections

Communications

Composite Materials

Computers

Cooking

Crime Prevention

Cycling

Dentistry

Disabilities Awareness

Dog Care

Drafting

Electricity

Electronics

Emergency Preparedness

Energy

Genealogy

Geology

Golf

Graphic Arts

Hiking

Home Repairs

Horsemanship

Indian Lore

Insect Study

Journalism

Landscape Architecture

Law

Leatherwork

Lifesaving

Mammal Study

Medicine

Metalwork

Model Design and Building

Motorboating

Music

Nature

Nuclear Science

Oceanography

Orienteering

Painting

Personal Fitness

Personal Management

Pets

Rowing

Safety

Salesmanship

Scholarship

Sculpture

Shotgun Shooting

Skating

Small-Boat Sailing

Snow Sports

Soil and Water

Conservation

Space Exploration

Sports

Stamp Collecting

Surveying

Swimming

Textile

Theater

Traffic Safety

Truck Transportation

Veterinary Medicine

Water Sports

Weather

Whitewater

Wilderness Survival

Wood Carving

Woodwork

Note: Merit badges displayed in a **bold font** are Eagle-required merit badges.

See also

- [An Introduction to Merit Badges](#) - how to get started, who chooses the counselor, etc.
- [Merit Badge Worksheets & Requirements](#) - with the revision dates, diagrams, charts, checklists, logs, and links you need.
- [Merit Badge Application](#) - offers online resources to let you print "Blue Cards," etc.
- [Merit Badge FAQ](#) - answers dozens of questions like: Who can be a counselor? Can requirements be added or removed?
- [Merit Badges Requiring Prior Approval](#) - Certain requirements need prior approval. Most do not. Here is the list.
- Also see: [Most Popular Merit Badges](#) - [Merit Badge Policies](#) - [Eagle-Required Merit Badges](#) - [Merit Badge Days](#)
- Merit badge counselors need to complete an [Adult Application](#) and the [Merit Badge Counselor Information Form](#) and be approved by the [local council](#).
- [Guide for Merit Badge Counselors](#)
- [List of Merit Badges by Field of Study](#)
- [Merit Badge Pamphlets & Libraries](#)



[Boy Scout portal](#)



[Varsity Scout portal](#)

External links

- [Mr. D's Merit Badge Review](#)
- [David's & Jordon's Merit Badge Review](#)

<u>Advancement Policies</u>		
<u>Advancement (Report)</u>	<u>Boy Scouts (Resources)</u>	<u>Service Projects</u>
<u>Rules and Regulations</u>	<u>First Class-First Year</u>	<u>Eagle Scout Project</u>
<u>What is Scout Spirit?</u>	<u>Scoutmaster Conferences</u>	<u>Lifesaving Awards</u>
<u>When is a Scout Active?</u>	<u>Time Extensions</u>	<u>Summer Camp</u>
<u>When is a Scout in Uniform?</u>	<u>Boards of Review - Appeals</u>	<u>Merit Badges, Events & FAQ</u>

<u>Scouts with Special Needs</u>	<u>Advancement Campout</u>	<u>Cub Scouts (Resources)</u>
<u>Religious Principle</u>	<u>Courts of Honor</u>	<u>Varsity (Resources)</u>
<u>Books & References</u>	<u>12 Steps From Life to Eagle</u>	<u>Venturing & Sea Scouts</u>

Click here for [Many more Advancement Policies](#)

Retrieved from "http://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Merit_Badges"

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