

Merit Badge Procedures

IT IS THE SCOUT WHO MUST CONTACT THE ADVANCEMENT CHAIR, MERIT BADGE COUNSELOR AND SCOUT MASTER, NOT THE PARENT/GUARDIAN

A Scout may earn merit badges any time he wishes to. He should select badges that are suitable for his age and interest, with an eye towards badges that are “Eagle required”. He can obtain information about any merit badges from the troop Merit Badge Counselor Coordinator, as well as from the National site: www.scouting.org/meritbadges. Before starting on any merit badge, he must obtain a blue card from either the Scoutmaster or the Rank Advancement Chair. This gives us an opportunity to counsel the scout. He then needs to contact the Merit Badge Counselor prior to starting the requirements. We have many counselors in our Troop and there are many more in our area. Scouts are encouraged to use different counselors, including adults listed on the council website that may be from outside our troop. Even though you do not know the person, they are known to scouting and can greatly enrich your experience. Scouts can borrow MB books from the troop library and should verify current requirements before proceeding as many have recently changed. The MB book is still good reference material that can be used.

We REMIND YOU THAT IT IS THE SCOUT, NOT THE PARENT, WHO IS TO CONTACT THE MB COUNSELOR. Try to find a buddy to work on the same badge with you, to maximize the counselor’s time, and to follow the buddy system. You should never be in a place alone with an adult, unless it is in a public place such as the library where other people are present.

When you have completed the merit badge, and you got the completed card back (the counselor keeps one part) it is up to the **scout** to give the other part to the Rank Advancement Chairman. You will be awarded your merit badge and the card at the next court of honor.

We suggest all scouts have a ½ “ring binder with “baseball card” plastic sheets. Here they can collect all their rank advancement cards, merit badge cards (must be retained for Eagle) and any awards they have earned.