

# Merit Badges

## Quick Start Primer



## About Merit Badges

Opportunity to explore and develop vocations, hobbies, soft skills and character development

There are at least 135 merit badges a scout can explore with merit badge counselors (volunteers who are affiliated with the topic). Depending on the subject, this can be done through email, in-person sessions, classes, merit badge fairs, camps and workshops or virtually.

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## TOPIC

Choose a topic and if possible a partner/ parent if not in a class setting

2

## REQUESTS

To start: send request to  
Scoutmaster and  
Advancement chair

3

## COUNSELORS

Ask Advancement Chair  
for list of counselors



### Badge List Link

[https://  
www.scouting.org/  
skills/merit-badges/  
all/](https://www.scouting.org/skills/merit-badges/all/)



## Online Workbooks

[http://usscouts.org/  
mb/worksheets/  
list.asp](http://usscouts.org/mb/worksheets/list.asp)



### Eagle Required

[https://  
www.scouting.org/  
skills/merit-badges/  
eagle-required/](https://www.scouting.org/skills/merit-badges/eagle-required/)

## Getting Started:

These are the general steps:

1. Select a topic. Talk to Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster or Mrs. Raps before starting a merit badge.
2. Ask Scoutmaster for Approval/Blue Card and Advancement Chair for counselors
3. Contact potential counselors. Be sure to mention your name, troop, which badge you are working on as well as their blue card preference. Also always make sure your parent is cc: on all electronic communications.
4. Once you have a counselor, include your parents on all your email communications and work on your requirements. In person or Virtual, be sure to have at least another scout or a parent present.
5. Once you are done, get MBC sign off and submit blue card to Scoutmaster and Advancement Chair. If PDF, email to SM and AC. If Scoutbook, email SM and AC to let them know.
6. At Court of Honor, you will get your badge!



## Save Your Work Until Final Sign Off Is Received!

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Save your work until you get your final sign off recorded into Scoutbook or blue card handed into your Scoutmaster /Advancement Chair.

Since merit badge counselors (MBC) are volunteers, there may be times when a MBC suddenly is unable to continue working with you and saving your work helps prevent needing to redo requirements with another counselor.

## BLUE CARDS - RECORD OF START AND COMPLETION

Blue cards are obtained at the start of the merit badge process for each merit badge. It is a record for you, the counselor and the troop. You will need to find out how your counselor wants to handle this.

There are three forms: physical, PDF and Scoutbook.

If your counselor wishes to use Scoutbook, your Advancement Chair will need the Counselor's Scoutbook registered email in order to connect you.

Upon finishing your requirements, the counselor needs to sign off on the completion and turn them into the Scoutmaster/Advancement Chair.

The image shows a blue card form titled "RECORD OF START AND COMPLETION". It is a record for the merit badge process. The form includes a header section with fields for "Counselor's Name", "Troop Number", "Merit Badge Number", and "Merit Badge Name". Below the header is a large grid with columns for "Start Date", "Completion Date", and "Status". The grid is designed to track the progress of multiple merit badges. At the bottom of the form, there are sections for "Counselor's Signature" and "Scoutmaster/Advancement Chair's Signature".