

MERIT BADGES

Troop 20 has a very active merit badge program that utilizes adults from both the troop and community. Men and women, who are at least 21 years of age, and are members of the Boy Scouts of America are eligible to be merit badge counselors to teach and guide Scouts using their expertise on a subject. One of the most useful books for Scouts working on merit badges is “**Boy Scout Requirements**” a booklet published bi-annually, containing the up-to-date requirements of all ranks and merit badges. In addition, to this, each merit badge has an official pamphlet that will guide you through all the requirements needed to complete the badge. It is also a good resource book on the given subject. The troop has a merit badge pamphlet library with the majority of the main merit badges in it. The secret to successfully earning a merit badge is for you to use both the pamphlet and the suggestions of your counselor. Your counselor can be as important to you as a coach is to an athlete. Use all of the resources your counselor can make available to you. This may be the best chance you will have to learn about this particular subject. Make it count.

The troop merit badge program is aimed at the older boys that have earned or are working on First Class. The troop tries to include a variety of different merit badges including ones required for Eagle. The merit badges earned through the troop’s program and ones earned at summer camp are by no means the only merit badges available through the Scouting program. There are well over 120 different merit badges available. If a Scout is interested in earning any other merit badges other than the ones available through Troop 20 or Summer camp, he is urged to follow the following steps:

1. **Pick a Subject** - The Scout should review the merit badges that are available. The advancement chairman or Scoutmaster will give the Scout the name and phone number of a counselor for the subject.
2. **Scout Buddy System** - The Scout must have another Scout with him at each meeting with the merit badge counselor.
3. **Call the Counselor** - Get a *signed* merit badge application and the name of a Scout buddy from your Scoutmaster. Get in touch with the merit badge counselor and tell them that the two of you want to earn the merit badge. The counselor may request both of you to them so they can explain what is expected. When you know what is expected, start to learn and do the items that are required. Ask your counselor to help you learn the things you need to know or do.
4. **Get the Badge** - When the counselor is satisfied that you have met each requirement, they will sign your application. Give this to the advancement chairman so that the merit badge emblem can be secured for you and the information can be recorded into the troop advancement file.

1. **More or Less** - 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 and demonstrate,” that is what you must do. Just telling about it isn’t enough. The same things hold true for such words as “make,” “list,” “in the field,” and “collect,” “identify,” and “label.”
2. **Responsibility** - It is the *Scouts* responsibility, not the parent or a leader in the troop to make sure the requirements were completed or whether the merit badge card was turned in. This is to be done between the counselor and the Scout alone.



Sample of a Merit Badge Card