

Earning a Merit Badge

You can learn about sports, crafts, science, trades, business, and future careers as you earn merit badges. There are more than 130 merit badges available. Any Boy Scout may earn a merit badge at any time. You don't need to have had rank advancement to be eligible. To begin...

Select a Merit Badge: Decide on a merit badge you would like to earn by looking at the list of badges in the *Boy Scout Handbook* (pg. 444-445), then further looking at the requirements for the merit badge in the specific merit badge pamphlet in the Troop 11 Library (see troop Librarian to access the cabinet in the meeting room), or in the book *Boy Scout Requirements*. To have the most current requirements, you may want to purchase any of these pamphlets or books at the Scout Store located at BSA Headquarters on 1207 Upas Street, San Diego, 92103.

Application for Merit Badge (Blue Card): Obtain a Merit Badge Application also known as a "blue card" from the Advancement Chair (Mr. Greer). The application is a three part perforated card. Complete your name, address, Troop 11, Torrey Pines District; SDIC-San Diego Imperial Council, & name of Merit Badge on ALL three parts (see sample on next page).

Scoutmaster's Approval: Talk to your Scoutmaster (Mr. Tullio) or Assistant Scoutmaster's (Mr. Widjaja; Mrs. Cartier; & Mrs. Bozell) about your interest in earning a merit badge and seek approval by presenting the Merit Badge Application. The signed "blue card" indicates that you are qualified to begin working on the merit badge.

Find a Counselor in Your Area: Look up the name and phone number of a registered counselor for the merit badge using the BSA website at <http://www.sdicbsa.org/Advancement/CounselorLookup.php>. Enter your zip code and select the Merit Badge of interest.

1st Counselor Appointment: Along with another Scout, a relative or a friend, set up and attend your 1st appointment with the merit badge counselor. When you meet with the counselor, he or she will explain the requirements for the badge and help you plan ways to fulfill them so that you can get the most out of the experience.

Complete the Requirements: Practice the skills, carry out the activities, and learn the information required for the merit badge. Along with another Scout, a relative or a friend, meet with the counselor whenever necessary (this helps check your progress along the way).

Final Counselor Appointment(s): Along with another Scout, a relative or a friend, set up and attend your final appointment with the merit badge counselor. When you meet with the counselor, he or she will review your skills, experiences, and knowledge to ensure you have met the requirements. If no further meetings are required, he or she will sign the "blue card". The counselor will retain the portion of the "blue card" titled Counselor's Record.

Turn in the Signed Blue Card: Upon completion of the merit badge, turn in BOTH of the remaining parts (Application & Applicant's Record) of the blue card signed by your merit badge counselor to the Advancement Chair (Mr. Greer).

Court Of Honor (COH): Receive the honor of achieving the merit badge at a Troop Court of Honor. You will receive your Applicant's Record copy of the "blue card" and a Pocket card along with the actual merit badge.

SAVE YOUR BLUE CARD!!!: You will need records of your merit badge achievements for proof when advancing to Star, Life, and Eagle ranks. Many Scouts use the baseball trading card holders (9 pockets to a page) that clip in a 3-ring binder.

