

TROOP 469 - MERIT BADGE

General Information

Below are the guidelines for you to follow to complete a merit badge. 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.

A good place to review the merit badges available is in the back of your BSA handbook or the Troop library. The Eagle required merit badges are listed in the back of your handbook with all the requirements; however, you will need the merit badge pamphlet for details or merit badge worksheet (*website: www.meritbadge.org*) and complete explanation of requirements. Contact the Troop Librarian to check out a merit badge pamphlet from the Troop Library. You may choose to purchase your own copy from the Scout Shop (*located on 1960 behind 1st Community Credit Union*). The internet is also an excellent place to read up on this subject.

Resources for merit badge classes:

- ❖ **Troop 469** – will conduct classes three times a year that will offer 11 of the 12 Eagle required merit badges.
 - Winter: Environment Science, Personal Fitness, Personal Management
 - Spring: First Aid, Emergency Preparedness
 - Summer: Family Life, Communications and rotating each year with one of the Citizenship in the Community, Nation and World
- ❖ **Summer camp** – offers a large variety of Eagle required and non-Eagle required
- ❖ **Orion District Merit Badge University** – gathering of merit badge counselors within the district for the scouts to sign-up from a selected choice of classes
- ❖ **Community** – a variety of businesses in the community sponsor merit badge classes for a small fee: such as Moody Gardens, The Houston Zoo, museums, etc.
- ❖ **Other** – personal resources, church, school, etc. (*if your contact is not a registered merit badge counselor, your unit can offer a registered counselor as a liaison*)



Merit Badge Procedure

After YOU have chosen a merit badge you would like to complete and

BEFORE YOU START working on the requirements, YOU (*not your parents*) will follow these steps:

1. Scoutmaster approval is required before starting a merit badge
 - a. Talk to your Scoutmaster and let him know which merit badge you have chosen to do
 - b. OR Sign-up for a merit badge class
2. Scoutmaster will give you a signed BLUE CARD (*See an example in this section*) then direct you to a
 - a. Merit badge counselor
 - b. OR Troop hosted merit badge class
3. Contact merit badge counselor
 - a. Tell him or her, the merit badge you want to earn.
 - b. The counselor will explain their expectations, requirements needed, give you a merit badge worksheet to complete and help you set a goal of completion. (*You must have another person with you at each meeting with a counselor. This person can be another Scout, your parents, a brother or sister, or a friend. This is known as the Scout Buddy System.*)
4. Working on the requirements
 - a. Read the merit badge pamphlet or online resources
 - b. Complete the requirements and use the worksheet to write out the details (*if needed, ask counselor for help*)
 - c. You are expected to meet the requirements – no more or no less- as they are stated. 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 words like “make”, “list”, “in the field”, and “collect, identify, and label”.
5. Completion of the requirements
 - a. Call the counselor and make an appointment for your merit badge review.
 - b. Take along the things you have made, charts, merit badge worksheet, etc. If they are too big to move, take pictures or have an adult tell in writing what you have done.
 - c. The counselor will ask you about each requirement to evaluate whether you have done or can do the requirements.
 - d. The counselor will record requirements completed with appropriate dates on the BLUE CARD
6. Signatures needed on BLUE CARD
 - a. Counselor – will sign after satisfied with completion of requirements and direct you to get the Scoutmaster’s signature on the other two portions
 - b. Scoutmaster – scout requests the Scoutmaster’s signature
7. Record keeping of BLUE CARD
 - a. Counselor – keeps the “Counselor’s Record” portion
 - b. Scout – keeps the signed “Applicant’s Record” portion, then place in advancement sleeve (*Baseball card holder*) located in the Advancement tab.
 - c. Advancement chair – keeps the signed “Application for Merit Badge” portion (*YOU will submit this portion*)
8. Recognition of Merit Badge
 - a. Advancement chair will record the data from the BLUE CARD into the Troop’s data base software “Troopmaster”
 - b. The merit badge emblem and advancement card will be presented at the next Court of Honor
9. Proof of Merit Badge completion (***EXTREMELY IMPORTANT to keep in a safe place until Eagle rank has been earned***)
 - a. “Applicant’s Record” portion of BLUE CARD
 - b. Merit badge advancement card (*presented with emblem at COH*)