



New Scout Tip: Merit Badge Blue Cards

What are those blue cards?!? Although seeming a bit antiquated, the blue card system is how progress towards a merit badge is tracked.

- It is **VERY IMPORTANT** to keep your blue cards in progress in a safe place to prevent loss and damage.
- It is also very important to request Troopmaster entry from the Advancement Team periodically during your completion progress.
- It is recommended that you keep your blue cards with Worksheets in progress, and/or in Ziplock bags inside your Scout book jacket pocket.

Note that blue cards are handled slightly differently depending on if you are working on a merit badge within the confines of the Troop, facilitated by the Troop such as for Summer Camp, from an outside source like Discovery Place or a Council offering, or if you are pursuing completing a badge independently. Below outlines some differences. **Please go to the Program Tab on the Troop website, then under Merit Badges. The process is posted there.**

- Request blank blue cards as a first step when pursuing **independent merit badge work** and when you are seeking **external courses**. Scoutmaster signature for permission is required.
 - ~ Bring your blue card to the Advancement Team to enter your progress into Troopmaster either at completion or during partially completed progress.
 - ~ Partially completed badges will be returned to you to keep in a safe place. You will provide the counselor the card for continued tracking / signatures during your completion progress.
- When taking badges at **summer camp**, the Troop will receive a report and enter progress into Troopmaster.
 - ~ Completed badges will be fully processed.
 - ~ When partially complete, the Advancement Team will create a partial blue card and distribute to you for safe keeping, and to finish at your own pace independently.
- If you are going to a **Council facilitated camp** (such as Winter Camp), please be sure to read the instructions when registering – you may need to bring blue cards (versus the Advancement Team receiving a report), and therefore requiring Scoutmaster signature prior to attending.
 - ~ Bring the Council report or blue card to the Advancement Team to enter into Troopmaster, for both partially and fully completed badges.
 - ~ Partially completed badges will be finished independently at your own pace. Keep the partial blue card in a safe place.
- If you are signed up for a merit badge class **offered by Troop Counselors to the Troop at large** (such as during the American Heritage Trip), you do not need to obtain a blank blue card prior to attending. The Advancement Team and Counselors will manage this.
 - ~ Completed badges will be fully processed.
 - ~ Partially completed badges will be entered into Troopmaster and a partial blue card will be created and distributed to you for safe keeping, to finish at your own pace.

The Merit Badge Coordinator maintains a list of Merit Badge Counselors within the Troop. You can reach out to Debbie Orostin at orostind@gmail.com for a list of Troop counselors who can guide through your independent merit badges of interest or to help you complete a badge already started.