

TROOP 58

Merit Badge Process



INTRODUCTION:

In order for scouts to move up the ranks to achieve Eagle, scouts need to earn 13 Eagle-required badges and other electives of their own choice to earn a total of 21 badges. Here are the details:

<http://www.scouting.org/Home/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards.aspx>

Here is a good overview of the merit badge program:

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/guidetoadvancement/themeritbadgeprogram.aspx>

Here is a [list](#) of badges offered by the BSA.

Any badges earned passed what is required to earn Eagle rank can be applied to earning Palms. See more here: [Eagle Palm Requirements \(usscouts.org\)](http://usscouts.org)

In addition to completing merit badges, scouts also need to learn certain skills and perform certain duties to advance through the ranks. Here's a good explanation of rank advancement:

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards.aspx>

Scouts can earn merit badges by:

- Attending scout camp each summer (Camp Daniel Boone in June), Duke Encampment (organized by the Troop if we decide to attend), and by attending our trips where badges may be taught (especially, the American Heritage Trip). There may be other opportunities at Troop meetings, as communicated.
- Attending local merit badge classes if approved by the Scoutmaster. See: <https://www.mccscouting.org/about-3>
- Completing badges independently with permission by the Scoutmaster, but must contact a counselor that is approved to teach / oversee the badge.

In Troop 58, many badges are taught / counseled by adult members of the Troop. Parents are encouraged to teach merit badges based on their skills, interests, and talents. This is a really great way to be involved with the Troop, and it provides our scouts better access to completing badges. Please contact Merit Badge Coordinator, Debbie Orostin at orostind@gmail.com, to inquire about serving as a Merit Badge Counselor.

PROCESS:

1. Scout determines interest in completing a badge. Scout prints badge worksheet from: [Merit Badge Worksheets \(usscouts.org\)](#).
2. Scout obtains a blank blue card from Debbie Orostin or Scoutmaster (at a Troop meeting or alternatively as coordinated – request is driven by the Scout).
 - Blue cards do not need to be obtained by the Scout when facilitated by the Troop such as during summer camp, American Heritage Trip, Duke Encampment, or attending a Troop-held badge offering. (Blue cards will be managed by the Advancement Team and/or Troop counselor; if partially complete, blue cards are distributed to the Scout).
3. Scout gets permission from Scoutmaster to complete the badge, asking the Scoutmaster to sign the blue card to show permission, and discussing the method / venue (discouraged from virtual badges, but can be by attending a course outside of the Troop, or could be done independently).
 - Permission is not needed if taking a badge facilitated by the Troop.

4. For independent badge completion, Scout requests a list of current Merit Badge Counselors for the particular badge from Debbie Orostin at orostind@gmail.com or at a Troop meeting.
5. Scout reaches out to chosen counselor to request assistance in counseling the badge. The Counselor will help direct how the badge will be completed (ie: going over independently completed requirements, holding a learning session, etc.).
6. Scout will provide the Counselor the blue card to sign off on requirements completed.
 - Counselor and Scout will arrange when to sign off on partially completed requirements, or if sign off would happen at fully complete.
7. Scout will bring partially complete or fully complete blue card to a Troop meeting for the Advancement Team to enter into Troopmaster.
 - **It is advised that all partially completed requirements are entered into Troopmaster when at a stopping point in progress. This ensures best tracking, and the information would then convey via Troopmaster if there is a change in counselors over time.**
 - **Scout keeps possession of partial blue cards along with Worksheets in progress. Scout uses a secure organizational system to prevent loss, supported by parents.**
 - Once remaining requirements are completed and signed off by a valid counselor, Scout repeats bringing blue card to a Troop meeting for: requesting signature from Scoutmaster to recognize the completion, and requests that the Advancement Team enter into Troopmaster.
 - The completed card is kept by the Advancement Team and is processed with Council before the next Court of Honor.
8. The completed merit badge is awarded at the next scheduled Court of Honor. This includes the actual badge as well as a portion of the blue card.
 - **The portion of the completed blue card returned to the Scout should be saved securely for future reference.**