

Merit badges are required as part of rank advancement.

- Star Scout requires 6 merit badges, 4 of which **MUST** be from the list of Eagle required merit badges. The remaining two merit badges are elective.
- Life Scout requires 5 additional merit badges, 3 of which **MUST** be from the list of Eagle required merit badges and 2 are elective. A Life Scout has a total of 11 merit badges, 7 Eagle required and 5 elective.
- To earn the rank of Eagle, the Scout must earn a total of 21 merit badges, 12 of which **MUST** be from the list of Eagle required merit badges, the remaining 9 are elective.

The Eagle Required Merit Badges

Camping Communications Environmental Science Family Life
Citizenship in the Community Citizenship in the Nation Citizenship in the World
First Aid Personal Fitness Personal Management

*Choice of: Option 1A Cycling, **OR** Option 1B Hiking, **OR** Option 1C Swimming

*Choice of: Option 2A Emergency Preparedness **OR** Option 2B Lifesaving

** a choice earned in Options 1 and 2 not counted for Eagle rank may be counted as an elective*

The Elective Merit Badges

- American Business, American Culture, American Heritage, American Labor, Animal Science, Archaeology, Archery, Architecture, Art, Astronomy, Athletics, Atomic Energy, Auto Mechanics, Aviation
- Backpacking, Basketry, Bird Study, Bugling
- Canoeing, Chemistry, Cinematography, Climbing, Coin Collecting, Collections, Communications, Composite Materials, Computers, Cooking, Crime Prevention
- Dentistry, Disabilities Awareness, Dog Care, and Drafting
- Electricity, Electronics, Energy, Engineering, Entrepreneurship
- Farm Mechanics, Fingerprinting, Fire Safety, First Aid, Fish and Wildlife Management, Fishing, Fly Fishing, Forestry
- Gardening, Genealogy, Geology, Golf, Graphic Arts
- Home Repairs, Horsemanship
- Indian Lore, Insect Study
- Journalism
- Landscape Architecture, Law, Leatherwork
- Mammal Study, Medicine, Metalwork, Model Design and Building, Motorboating, Music
- Nature, Nuclear Energy = Atomic Energy
- Oceanography, Orienteering.
- Painting, Pets, Photography, Pioneering, Plant Science, Plumbing, Pottery, Public Health, Public Speaking, Pulp and Paper.
- Radio, Railroad, Reading, Reptile and Amphibian Study, Rifle Shooting, Rowing
- Safety, Salesmanship, Scholarship, Sculpture, Shotgun Shooting, Skating, Small-Boat Sailing, Snow Sports, Soil and Water Conservation, Space Exploration, Sports, Stamp Collecting, Surveying
- Textile, Theater, Traffic Safety, Truck Transportation
- Veterinary Medicine
- Water Skiing, Weather, Whitewater, Wilderness Survival, Wood Carving, Woodwork

How to Earn a Merit Badge

Some of the badges you will work on as a member of the Troop - achieving these will be incorporated into Troop activities and will most likely be Eagle required badges. Ultimately it is up to YOU to earn the badges required for your advancements.

- **Pick the Badge.** Do you know what badges you can earn? Many badges correspond with what you are already doing, whether it is for school, at home or in your community. Look over the requirements for the different badges and select the one(s) that interest you. Keep in mind you **MUST** earn certain badges for advancement.
- **Get the Card.** You must get a **SIGNED blue card** from a Troop leader (Scoutmaster, Troop Advancement Chair, Asst. Scoutmaster) for each merit badge you work on **BEFORE** you begin. At this time you will also be assigned a **merit badge counselor** to help you meet the badge requirements and to certify your completion of the requirements.
- **Contact the Counselor.** Once you have your blue card get in touch with the merit badge counselor and tell him or her that you want to earn the merit badge. The counselor may arrange a meeting to explain what is expected and start helping you meet the requirements. Always check you are using requirements with the most **current revision date**. See "**Requirement Revisions**" below.
- **Use the Scout Buddy System.** You must have another person with you at each meeting with the merit badge counselor. This person can be another Scout, your parents or guardian, a brother or sister, a relative, or a friend. Try to meet in a public place, maybe before a regular Troop meeting or during a campout.
- **GO!** When you understand what is expected, start to learn and do the things required for the badge. Remember your merit badge counselor is just one of the many resources you have available to you as you work toward completion of the badge requirements. Don't be afraid to use teachers, parents, family friends and Troop leaders. If you get stuck on something or need ideas just ASK!
- **Be organized!** You must meet the requirements **exactly as they are stated** -- no more and no less. 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 such words as "make," "list," "in the field," "collect," "identify," and "label." Keep everything together in a folder and use a worksheet such as the ones found on this CD or on the Internet at USScouts.org. You need to provide proof to the counselor you have completed the requirements.
- **Show Your Stuff.** When you have completed the requirements, arrange with your counselor a time to review your work. Make sure to take along the things you have made to meet the requirements. If they are too big to move, take pictures or have an adult tell in writing what you have done. The counselor will review each requirement with you to make sure that you know your stuff and have done or can do the things required. You do not have to wait until all requirements are done before you ask your counselor to review your work.
- **Get the Badge!** When the counselor is satisfied you have met each requirement he or she will sign your blue card. Give the signed blue card to a Troop leader – Scoutmaster, Advancement Chair, Asst. Scoutmaster. Congratulations! Your badge will be awarded at the next Court of Honor. In addition to the actual badge, you will receive a portion of your blue card for your records.
- **Update Your Records.** Make sure you put your blue card copy in a safe location- you will need it for your Boards of Review for Star, Life and Eagle. Make note of the badge and date earned in your Scout Handbook. Sew your badge onto your merit badge sash.
- **NEXT!** Get started on your next badge...

A merit badge can be earned at any rank and in any order, just make sure you follow the procedure as outlined above. Don't forget if you get stuck in earning merit badges or with rank advancement, to talk with your Scoutmaster, an Asst. Scoutmaster, or Troop Committee members- we are here to help!

Requirement Revisions:

The requirements for a merit badge can and do CHANGE! It is **your responsibility** to check you are using the current requirements for a merit badge when you begin work on the badge. If the requirements change after you have started the work, you have two options: 1) continue using the requirements you started with, OR, 2) start over using the new requirements. You may NOT mix requirements from different revision years. You MUST use the requirements with the **most current revision date** when you begin, even if they are not what are written in your merit badge pamphlet. The revision date of a merit badge pamphlet and the merit badge's requirements may be different.

The most current requirements for a merit badge are found:

1. in the annual book "*Boy Scout Requirements*" (ex. *Boy Scout Requirements 2006*)
2. on the Internet at <http://usscouts.org/usscouts/mb/mbbooks.html>

In any case, once you start with a set of requirements you can continue using them until you complete the badge or turn 18.