



# The Merit Badge Process

1. A Scout is guided to the requirements for a Merit Badge.
2. The Scout finds the requirements in:
  - A. **Boy Scout Requirements**
  - B. Merit Badge Pamphlet, at:
    - (1) the Troop Library
    - (2) the public library
    - (3) a friend (peer)
    - (4) a friend (adult)
    - (5) a local store stocking Scout supplies
    - (6) a Scout store or trading post
  - C. Internet
3. The Scout looks at the requirements and decides he wants to pursue the Merit Badge.
4. The Scout indicates his interest in a particular Merit Badge to his Scoutmaster, who:
  - A. ~~gives him an interview to determine interest, enthusiasm, and preparedness~~
  - B. gives him a signed **Application for Merit Badge**
  - C. with the District Merit Badge Counselor List, helps the Scout locate the name and phone number of the district/council approved Merit Badge Counselor
  - D. encourages the Scout to wear his Class A uniform when he visits the counselor with his buddy
5. The Scout telephones the Merit Badge Counselor and makes an appointment.
6. The Merit Badge Counselor sets the date and time for the Scout **and his buddy** and suggests the Scout:
  - A. bring the Merit Badge Pamphlet
  - B. bring the Application for Merit Badge
  - C. prepare by reading over the requirements and start working on some of the areas
  - D. bring the work he has started or accomplished



- E. bring any other materials he may need
  - F. bring any other documentation he may have
7. The Merit Badge Counselor verifies the current requirements for the Merit Badge.
  8. At the first meeting, the Merit Badge Counselor and the Scout decide upon:
    - A. any projects that will be required (write these out)
    - B. a tentative schedule for completing the requirements both short-term and long-term, keeping the other obligations (Scout, school, church, etc.) in mind (write these completion date goals out)
    - C. dates, times and location for future meetings
  9. The number of counseling sessions depend on the difficulty of the Merit Badge requirements and the preparation and ability of the Scout.
  10. The Scout is expected to meet the requirements for the Merit Badge as stated--no more and no less.
  11. The Scout is coached and encouraged with a buddy present. The Merit Badge Counselor may expand on the information in the Merit Badge Pamphlet based on his knowledge, experience and expertise in the subject. He is encouraged to tell about his own experiences that positively reinforce the subject matter of the Merit Badge requirements.
  12. The Merit Badge Counselor assists the Scout to meet the requirements.
  13. The Scout is always tested individually, but with a buddy present, and as each requirement is completed the Merit Badge Counselor marks it on the application.
  14. The Merit Badge Counselor certifies when the Scout has completed the requirements and hardily congratulates him on completing the requirements.
  15. When possible, the Merit Badge Counselor attends the Court of Honor when the Scout receives public recognition of his accomplishment.



## The Merit Badge Process--Group

1. Either the troop committee, the Patrol Leader Council (PLC) or the district (i.e., Merit Badge College) decides to offer a Merit Badge to the entire troop or a group of Scouts (avoid Merit Badge factories).
2. A Merit Badge Counselor is selected using the District Merit Badge Counselor List and a tentative schedule is developed in mutual accord between the counselor and the troop or district leadership.
3. The Merit Badge Counselor develops the presentations and a learning aid handout. Individual sessions should usually be limited to 30 minutes at Troop meetings. Games are useful in developing the knowledge, skills and enthusiasm for the Scouts and should be liberally used.
4. The Merit Badge Counselor should go over the requirements with the Scouts at the initial meeting and define his expectations for meeting each requirement with a positive outlook (don't forget to consider the age dichotomy within the troop).
5. Some or all testing may be accomplished by written tests. Remaining requirements must be done on an individual basis.
6. Some sessions may utilize guest experts to add variety. Also visual and tactile aids help stimulate interest and attention.