

SO, YOU WANT TO EARN A MERIT BADGE



CHAIN BRIDGE DISTRICT

Using the Blue Card - The Mystery is Exposed

Follow the steps below in numerical order.

Which lines on the Blue Card do the

- Scout,
- Scoutmaster,
- Counselor and
- Advancement Chair

fill out and in what order?

When both sides of the “blue card” are completed, the Scout returns it to the Scoutmaster for record posting and recognition at a Court of Honor.

Step 1 – Scout.

The Scout fills out the top of this first panel to identify himself, along with his unit, district and council.

Step 7 - Scoutmaster.

After the Scout has filled out parts 1 through 5, and the Scoutmaster has selected a merit badge counselor, the Scoutmaster signs here. The Scout may begin working for the merit badge.

"Merit badge applications must be signed in advance by the Scout's Scoutmaster."

Step 2 - Scout.

The Scout fills out the first column on the blue card below. The Scout must locate the merit badge requirements to complete this step.

Step 8 – Merit Badge Counselor.

The counselor fills in columns 2 and 3 as the Scout appears before the counselor and demonstrates to the satisfaction of the counselor that he has completed each requirement.

Requirement no. and letter	Date of approval	Counselor initial	Requirement no. and letter	Date of approval	Counselor initial

<http://www.vorthman.com/cbd/mb/>

"The Scout must have his buddy (Scout buddy system) in attendance at all instructional sessions."

Step 3 - Scout.

The Scout fills out the name of the merit badge.

Step 6 - SM.

The Scoutmaster selects a counselor from the Chain Bridge District Merit Badge Counselor Directory and provides the contact data including the counselor's phone number.

Step 9 – MB Counselor.

After the Scout personally appears before the counselor and demonstrates to the counselor's satisfaction that he meets ALL requirements, the counselor signs here. **This is the official date the badge was EARNED.**

Step 13.

The Committee Chair or Advancement Chair checks and records the presentation of the badge.

The applicant has personally appeared before me and demonstrated to my satisfaction that he has met all requirements for the (please print)

Merit badge

Name of counselor

Address of counselor

City _____ ZIP code _____

Telephone number of counselor

_____ / _____

Signature of counselor _____ Date _____

Checked and recorded:

Date _____ Initials _____

Certificate and badge presented _____

Date _____

Applicant will turn in this portion to his unit leader for record posting.

<http://www.vorthman.com/cbd/mb/>

This completed panel is kept by the Scout for his permanent record and may be needed to support an Eagle Scout Application.

Step 4 - Scout.

The Scout fills out his record with his name and the name of the merit badge again.

Step 10 - MBC.

When the Scout meets ALL requirements, the counselor fills out this part and signs again. . **This is the official date the badge was EARNED.**

Step 12 - SM.

When the Scout gives the two panels with the counselor's signatures to the Scoutmaster, the Scoutmaster signs here. The Scoutmaster returns one panel to the Scout and gives the last panel to the Advancement Chair for record posting and instant recognition at the next meeting.

APPLICANT'S RECORD

Name _____

has given me his completed application for the _____

Merit badge _____

Completed on _____ / _____ / _____ by _____

Date _____

Signature of counselor _____

Signature of unit leader _____

NOTE TO BOY SCOUT, VARSITY SCOUT, OR EXPLORER: Retain this copy for your permanent records.

<http://www.vorthman.com/cbd/mb/>

This completed panel is kept by the counselor.

Step 5 - Scout.

The Scout fills out the counselor's record with his name, unit and the name of the merit badge.

Step 11 - MBC.

After the Scout has completed all requirements to the satisfaction of the counselor, the counselor fills in the completion date, tears off and retains this panel. The counselor gives the other two signed panels to the Scout.

COUNSELOR'S RECORD

Applicant _____

Troop

Team Unit number _____

Post

Merit badge _____

Date completed _____ / _____ / _____

Remarks:

It is suggested that the counselor keep this record for at least 1 year in case any question is raised later in regard to this award.

<http://www.vorthman.com/cbd/mb/>

The sixth and final panel.

- Merit badge applications must be signed in advance by the unit leader.
- The Counselor may not change any requirement either by adding to or deleting from the requirements in the current BSA annual requirements book.
- **A merit badge can only be approved by a registered merit badge counselor.**

Information for Applicant

- A merit badge application can be approved only by a registered merit badge counselor.
- You must have a buddy with you (Scout buddy system) at each meeting with the merit badge counselor.
- Turn in your approved application to your unit leader. You will be awarded the merit badge emblem and certificate at a suitable occasion.

Information for Counselor

- Merit badge applications must be signed in advance by the applicant's unit leader.
- The Scout must have his buddy (Scout buddy system) in attendance at all instructional sessions.
- You may not change any requirement, but you may share your knowledge or experience that will make the counseling more interesting and valuable.



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<http://www.vorthman.com/cbd/mb/>

Introduction to Merit Badges

The process of earning a merit badge and the interaction between the Scout, Scoutmaster and the Merit Badge Counselor is explained in BSA's latest, annual Boy Scout Requirements book:



You can learn about sports, crafts, science, trades, business and future careers as you earn these merit badges. There are more than 100 merit badges (*121 as of January 1, 2006*). Any Boy Scout may earn any merit badge at any time. You don't need to have had rank advancement to be eligible.

Pick A Subject. Talk to your Scoutmaster about your interests. Read the requirements of the merit badges you think might interest you. Pick one to earn. Your Scoutmaster will give you the name of a person from a list of counselors. These counselors have special knowledge in their merit badge subjects and are interested in helping you.

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.

Call The Counselor. Get a *signed* merit badge application from your Scoutmaster. Get in touch with the merit badge counselor and tell him or her that you want to earn the merit badge. The counselor may ask you to come and see him so he can explain what he expects and start helping you meet the requirements.

When you know what is expected, start to learn and do the things required. Ask your counselor to help you learn the things you need to know or do. You should read the merit badge pamphlet on the subject. Many troops and school or public libraries have them.

Show Your Stuff. When you are ready, call the counselor again to make an appointment to meet the requirements. When you go 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 ask you to do each requirement to make sure that you know your stuff and have done or can do the things required.

Get The Badge. When the counselor is satisfied that you have met each requirement, he or she will sign your application. Give the signed application to your Scoutmaster so that your merit badge emblem can be secured for you.

Requirements. You are expected to meet the requirements as they are stated --- no more and no less. You are expected to do exactly what is stated in the requirements. 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," and "collect," "identify," and "label."

Required for Eagle

The following 15 badges are on the list of badges in requirement 3 for Eagle Scout.

Although a Scout must earn only 12 of them for the rank of Eagle Scout, and certain of them are therefore options for others, a Scout may choose any combination of these merit badges to fulfill requirement number 3 for Star and Life Scout. (He must have a total of 4 of these badges for Star and 7 of these badges for Life).

Camping, Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, Citizenship in the World, Communications, Cycling, Emergency Preparedness, Environmental Science, Family Life, First Aid, Hiking, Lifesaving, Personal Fitness, Personal Management, Swimming

There is NO DEADLINE for earning Merit Badges, except the Scout's 18th Birthday. Once a Scout has started working on a Merit Badge (i.e. obtained a signed "Blue Card" Application for Merit Badge from his Scoutmaster, had an initial discussion with a merit badge Counselor, and started working on the requirements), he may continue using those requirements until he completes the badge or turns 18.

THERE IS NO ONE YEAR LIMIT ON SO-CALLED "PARTIALS".

In contrast to the rule for rank advancements, which imposes a specific deadline for using the old requirements, The rule for Merit Badges is as follows:

If the requirements change while a Scout is working on the badge, he may continue to use the OLD requirements until he completes the work, or he may use the new requirements if he wishes. It is HIS choice, and his alone.

If a Merit Badge is discontinued, Scouts working on the badge when it is removed from the Boy Scout Requirements booklet may continue to work toward completing the badge, and get credit for earning the badge, until they turn 18. However, it may not be possible to obtain an actual merit badge patch, once the local council's supply is exhausted.

If a discontinued Merit Badge is replaced with one or more other Merit Badges covering the same or similar topics (such as Rifle and Shotgun Shooting MB which was replaced by Rifle Shooting MB and Shotgun Shooting MB), a Scout that has earned the discontinued badge may also earn the new badge or badges. If the badge is simply renamed (such as Firemanship MB which was changed to Fire Safety MB), Scouts may NOT earn the badge again. If the badge number in BSA's numbering system is the same before and after the change, it is a renaming. If a new number is assigned, it is a replacement.

(Information based on: <http://usscouts.org/mb>)

Merit Badges by Number and Name

Numerical Sort		Alphabetical Sort	
Number	Merit Badge Name	Merit Badge Name	Number
001	Camping	<i>Agribusiness</i>	120
002	Citizenship in the Community	American Business	015
003	Citizenship in the Nation	American Cultures	017
004	Citizenship in the World	American Heritage	016
005	Communications	American Labor	121
006	Emergency Preparedness	Animal Science	018
007	Environmental Science	Archaeology	132
008	First Aid	Archery	019
009	Lifesaving	Architecture	020
010	Personal Fitness	Art	021
011	Personal Management	Astronomy	022
012	Safety	Athletics	023
013	Sports	Auto Mechanics	127
014	Swimming	Aviation	025
015	American Business	Backpacking	026
016	American Heritage	Basketry	027
017	American Cultures	<i>Beekeeping</i>	028
018	Animal Science	Bird Study	029
019	Archery	<i>Bookbinding</i>	030
020	Architecture	<i>Botany</i>	031
021	Art	Bugling	032
022	Astronomy	Camping	001
023	Athletics	Canoeing	033
024	Nuclear Science <i>Atomic Energy</i>	Chemistry	034
025	Aviation	Cinematography	126
026	Backpacking	Citizenship in the Community	002
027	Basketry	Citizenship in the Nation	003
028	<i>Beekeeping</i>	Citizenship in the World	004
029	Bird Study	Climbing	133
030	<i>Bookbinding</i>	Coin Collecting	035
031	<i>Botany</i>	Collections	128

032	Bugling	Communications	005
033	Canoeing	Composite Materials	137
034	Chemistry	Computers	036
035	Coin Collecting	Consumer Buying	037
036	Computers	Cooking	038
037	Consumer Buying	Crime Prevention	131
038	Cooking	Cycling	039
039	Cycling	Dentistry	040
040	Dentistry	Handicap Awareness Disabilities Awareness	060
041	Dog Care	Dog Care	041
042	Drafting	Drafting	042
043	Electricity	Electricity	043
044	Electronics	Electronics	044
045	Energy	Emergency Preparedness	006
046	Engineering	Energy	045
047	Farm and Ranch Management	Engineering	046
048	Farm Mechanics	Entrepreneurship	134
049	Fingerprinting	Environmental Science	007
050	Firemanship Fire Safety	Family Life	129
051	Fish & Wildlife Management	Farm and Ranch Management	047
052	Fishing	Farm Mechanics	048
053	Food Systems	Fingerprinting	049
054	Forestry	Firemanship Fire Safety	050
055	Gardening	First Aid	008
056	Genealogy	Fish & Wildlife Management	051
057	General Science	Fishing	052
058	Geology	Fly Fishing	136
059	Golf	Food Systems	053
060	Handicap Awareness Disabilities Awareness	Forestry	054
061	Hiking	Gardening	055
062	Home Repairs	Genealogy	056
063	Horsemanship	General Science	057
064	Indian Lore	Geology	058

065	Insect Life Insect Study	Golf	059
066	Journalism	Graphic Arts	122
067	Landscape Architecture	Hiking	061
068	Law	Home Repairs	062
069	Leatherwork	Horsemanship	063
070	Machinery	Indian Lore	064
071	Mammals Mammal Study	Insect Life Insect Study	065
072	Masonry	Journalism	066
073	Metals Engineering	Landscape Architecture	067
074	Metalwork	Law	068
075	Model Design and Building	Leatherwork	069
076	Motorboating	Lifesaving	009
077	Music	Machinery	070
078	Nature	Mammals Mammal Study	071
079	Oceanography	Masonry	072
080	Orienteering	Medicine	130
081	Painting	Metals Engineering	073
082	Pets	Metalwork	074
083	Photography	Model Design and Building	075
084	Pioneering	Motorboating	076
085	Plant Science	Music	077
086	Plumbing	Nature	078
087	Pottery	Nuclear Science Atomic Energy	024
088	Printing	Oceanography	079
089	Public Health	Orienteering	080
090	Public Speaking	Painting	081
091	Pulp & Paper	Personal Fitness	010
092	Rabbit Raising	Personal Management	011
093	Radio	Pets	082
094	Railroading	Photography	083
095	Reading	Pioneering	084
096	Reptile Study Reptile and Amphibian Study	Plant Science	085
097	Rifle and Shotgun Shooting	Plumbing	086

098	Rowing	Pottery	087
099	Salesmanship	Printing	088
100	Scholarship	Public Health	089
101	Sculpture	Public Speaking	090
102	Signaling	Pulp & Paper	091
103	Skating	Rabbit Raising	092
104	Skiing	Radio	093
105	Small Boat Sailing	Railroading	094
106	Soil & Water Conservation	Reading	095
107	Space Exploration	Reptile Study Reptile and Amphibian Study	096
108	Stamp Collecting	Rifle and Shotgun Shooting	097
109	Surveying	Rifle Shooting	123
110	Textile	Rowing	098
111	Theater	Safety	012
112	Traffic Safety	Salesmanship	099
113	Truck Transportation	Scholarship	100
114	Veterinary Science -Veterinary Medicine	Sculpture	101
115	Waterskiing	Shotgun Shooting	124
116	Weather	Signaling	102
117	Wilderness Survival	Skating	103
118	Wood Carving	Skiing	104
119	Woodworking	Small Boat Sailing	105
120	Agribusiness	Snow Sports	135
121	American Labor	Soil & Water Conservation	106
122	Graphic Arts	Space Exploration	107
123	Rifle Shooting	Sports	013
124	Shotgun Shooting	Stamp Collecting	108
125	Whitewater	Surveying	109
126	Cinematography	Swimming	014
127	Auto Mechanics	Textile	110
128	Collections	Theater	111
129	Family Life	Traffic Safety	112
130	Medicine	Truck Transportation	113
131	Crime Prevention	Veterinary Science Veterinary Medicine	114

132	Archaeology	Waterskiing	115
133	Climbing	Weather	116
134	Entrepreneurship	Whitewater	125
135	Snow Sports	Wilderness Survival	117
136	Fly Fishing	Wood Carving	118
137	Composite Materials	Woodworking	119

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