



# Troop 82 Guide to Merit Badges





# Merit Badge Overview

Merit Badges are required for advancement past First Class with the ultimate goal of becoming an Eagle Scout.

What are Merit Badges all about, an introduction.

- <http://www.scouting.org/meritbadges.aspx>

What are the Merit Badges I need to earn for Eagle?

- <https://www.scouting.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/3321621-08-Eagle.pdf>





## Plan for Success

# 21 merit badges required for Eagle

- 13 “Eagle Required” Merit Badges – see link on preceding page
  - 12 taught at Troop 82 (all but swimming)
  - 10+ taught at TRJ Summer Camp
    - Citizenship in the Community and Family Life not available
    - take at Troop 82 or outside
    - Camp Alexander and other camps vary in offerings
    - All Eagle reqd badges must be earned at T82 or at a BSA provider – no independent study allowed per troop policy
- 8 optional Merit Badges
  - Scout can pick to align with their interests
  - Can earn through Troop 82, other BSA or outside providers
  - List of locations/providers for merit badges posted at <http://hptroop82.org/filesandresources.html>
  - Mix of Eagle reqd and optional badges needed for each rank advancement – See Scout handbook



## A Strategy for Troop 82 Scouts

WHICH badges to pursue WHERE and WHEN:

- BSA Summer Camp
  - Should go at least once and twice is best (4-10 MBs)
  - Complete Swimming MB at Summer Camp
- Troop 82
  - Complete one Eagle reqd badge fall, winter and spring starting fall of seventh grade and earn six Eagle reqd by the end of 8<sup>th</sup> grade and nine by end of freshman year
  - Camping MB signed off after 20 nights camping for Life scouts provided they have met other requirements
  - Troop 82 generally teaches Wilderness Survival and Orienteering badges annually on campouts
  - Other badges offered by parents and events

21 merit badges + Eagle Project = Eagle Scout



## Realize all Merit Badges are not Created Equal

- Always read the requirements in advance as difficulty varies widely
- Troop 82 restricts Eagle reqd class enrollment based on rank as some badges are far more difficult than others
  - Click “Classes offered” at <http://hptroop82.org/filesandresources.html>
- Independent difficulty ratings for all badges with key need-to-know information before you start:
  - [http://usscouts.org/advance/docs/Mr\\_DsReview.pdf](http://usscouts.org/advance/docs/Mr_DsReview.pdf)
- Use Scoutbook or your son’s handbook to understand mix of Eagle required and optional badges needed for advancement for each rank and create a written plan.



## 3 Ways to Earn Merit Badges

- ◆ **Monday Night Troop Meetings** – Eagle required Merit Badges are taught by certified parent volunteers – parents please help!
- ◆ **Official Boy Scout Summer Camp, Merit Badge University or other advancement gatherings**
- ◆ **Outside Merit Badges** – Several entities or groups provide merit badge classes
  - More details/list of providers later in the presentation





# **1. Monday Night Merit Badge Classes**

- ◆ The troop will teach Eagle required Merit Badge classes for First Class Scouts and above, for 6 weeks on Monday nights in the fall and spring.
- ◆ Troop 82 also offers a shorter winter session before Monday meetings in Jan/Feb.
- ◆ For a list of which Eagle required badges are offered in the specific fall, winter and spring sessions, click “Classes offered” at <http://hptroop82.org/filesandresources.html>
- ◆ First Class scouts are eligible for many badges but Cooking and Personal Management are restricted to Life scouts.
- ◆ A sign up sheet is distributed to all scouts 2-3 weeks before the class, asking them for their top 3 choices for Eagle Required badges they have not yet completed.



## A little more about Monday Night Merit Badges

- ◆ Regular Scout meetings start at 7:15 PM. Merit Badge Classes are from 7:45 PM – 8:30 PM in the assigned classrooms.
- ◆ Scouts need to print out a [Merit Badge Workbook](#) for the class they are taking and may be provided a Merit Badge Booklet (**requires \$5 for a deposit**).
- ◆ Some badges have outside requirements or a 13 week activity tracking chart. This means that **the scout will not get the badge in the 6 weeks of Monday night classes**, and they will have to follow up with their Merit Badge instructor or MB Desk for completion.
- ◆ At the end of the 6 weeks, we will take the attendance/tracking log and upload all the information to Scoutbook for either full or partial completion of the badge.
- ◆ The most important thing for all to remember is that the worksheet is like their scout handbook, **NEVER lose it** as this tracks all your progress. Bring the worksheet and booklet to every class.





## 2. Summer Camp

- ◆ At Summer Camp there are numerous merit badges offered and taught by BSA-trained staffers. Typically the Scout will choose 5 merit badges for the week.
- ◆ Troop 82 recommends pursuing Eagle required badges at camp.
- ◆ Completed or partially completed merit badges will be loaded into Scoutbook in August of each year.
- ◆ It is normal for a Partial Merit Badge to be awarded if all requirements not met at camp.





### **3. Outside Merit Badges**

Troop 82 strongly encourages Eagle merit badges be done on Monday nights, at summer camp or through an approved BSA provider but may make exceptions on a case-by-case basis. There are 2 ways to earn these badges:

**1. Attend a class from a BSA organization or individual.**

Obtain a “Blue Card” for participation that can be printed from Scoutbook. The card is required to be signed in ADVANCE of the merit badge class by their CSM or MB Desk.

**2. The scout may independently pursue under the guidance of a ‘counselor’ who mentors them through the badge. This counselor may be a professional with expertise in the merit badge subject matter.**

- Must be approved in ADVANCE by CSM or MB Desk.
- Scouts are required to complete the [Merit Badge Worksheet](#) for the badge and to use merit badge booklet.
- Badge is signed off by MB Desk, not by a CSM/ASM, although an ASM can sign off elements of the badge. After approval by the MB Desk, a yellow card will be issued and the badge will then be entered into Scoutbook by the Data Desk.



## Partially Completed Merit Badge

Happens frequently, whether it is a partial completion from Monday nights or summer camp.

1. Print out requirements for badge.
2. Go to Scoutbook and print the completed requirements.
3. Bring documentation to show MD Desk how the scout completed the requirements (including photos on his phone).

No partial listed in Scoutbook? Bring your completed worksheet to your Merit Badge Counselor or MB Desk for sign off or further coaching.





## Additional MB Opportunities – All Require Blue Cards

- ◆ C10 Merit Badge University and Events <http://circleten.org/merit-badge-university-1>
- ◆ Texas Archery [clint@texasarchery.info](mailto:clint@texasarchery.info)
  - 3 hr class on a Saturday for minimum of 6 scouts
- ◆ Plano Conservancy --Electricity and Railroad MB
- ◆ Heard Museum –Environmental Science and Mammal MB
- ◆ Scuba Adventures – Swimming, Lifesaving

# Boy Scout Required "Blue Card"

Can also be printed from Scoutbook  
Needs to be signed by CSM before class is started

Information for Applicant		Information for Counselor	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>A merit badge application can be approved only by a registered merit badge counselor.</li><li>You must have a buddy with you (Scout buddy system) at each meeting with the merit badge counselor.</li><li>Turn in your approved application to your unit leader. You will be awarded the merit badge emblem and certificate at a suitable occasion.</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Merit badge applications must be signed in advance by the applicant's unit leader.</li><li>The Scout must have his buddy (Scout buddy system) in attendance at all instructional sessions.</li><li>You may not change any requirement, but you may share your knowledge or experience that will make the counseling more interesting and valuable.</li></ul>	
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Requirement No. and letter	Counselor Initial	Date of approval
1		
2		
3		
4		
5a		
5b		
6		
7		
8a		
9		

APPLICATION FOR MERIT BADGE	
Name	Boy Scout's Name
Address	Scout's Address
City	Scout's City
is a registered <input type="checkbox"/> Boy Scout <input type="checkbox"/> Varsity Scout <input type="checkbox"/> Venturer	
of	Troop No. Troop #
District	Scout District
Council	Scout Council
I have discussed this merit badge with this Scout and recommended at least one merit badge counselor.	
Signature	Leader Signature
Date	Date
Signature of unit leader	
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APPLICANT'S RECORD	
Name	Enter Scout's Name Here
has given me his completed application for the	
Astronomy	
Merit badge	
Completed on	12 / 7 / 19 by
Date	
Signature of counselor	
Signature of unit leader	
NOTE TO BOY SCOUT, VARSITY SCOUT, OR VENTURER: Retain this copy for your permanent records.	

COUNSELOR'S RECORD	
Applicant	Enter Scout's Name Here
Enter Troop #	
Unit No.	
Troop #	
Team	
Crew	
Astronomy	
Merit badge	
Date completed	12 / 7 / 19
Remarks:	
It is suggested that the counselor keep this record in case any question is raised later in regard to this award.	



# Other Information

**To track the progress of Advancement and Merit Badge Completions and Partial go to Scoutbook**

<https://scoutbook.scouting.org/>

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Questions? E-mail [meritbadge@hptroop82.org](mailto:meritbadge@hptroop82.org)

Troop 82 Merit Badge Team: