

# Merit Badge Process

As scouts advance to the ranks of Star, Life and Eagle, many of the advancement requirements are embodied in merit badges. This allows individuals to choose their own unique and exciting path through scouting.

Our troop often provides the opportunity to work on a merit badge as a group. This is particularly beneficial for the Eagle required merit badges needed by all scouts. Camp A also offers the opportunity to earn merit badges as part of the camp experience.

Additionally, we have many members of the community who are **merit badge counselors**. All merit badge counselors are registered with the Pikes Peak Council and represent a wealth of practical and professional knowledge in their fields of interest and expertise. They are an extremely valuable resource to our troop. Merit badge counselors help guide a scout through the requirements for a merit badge and sign off when the scout completes the requirements. *This method of earning a merit badge is often overlooked or underutilized, though it provides excellent opportunities!*

Earning a merit badge via a merit badge counselor is done in these steps:

**1** Contact the scoutmaster and let him know you would like to work on a particular merit badge. If you and the scoutmaster agree you are up to the challenge, the scoutmaster will give you a signed "blue card" to indicate you can work on the merit badge. He will also give you the contact information for a registered merit badge counselor for the merit badge.

**2** Contact the merit Badge counselor given to you by the scoutmaster. Set up a meeting to discuss the merit badge requirements and develop a strategy for meeting the requirements.

Always use the buddy system! Meet with the merit badge counselor with another scout or family member.

**3** Complete the requirements. The merit badge counselor is the person to whom you demonstrate your mastery of the requirements. The merit badge counselor will track your progress on the Blue card.

The blue card is the official record and, like your scout handbook, its your responsibility to retain it. When you have completed all the requirements, the merit badge counselor will sign off on the blue card.

**4** Turn in your completed blue card to the advancement chair. There is a portion of the blue card to keep for your own records. Like your scout handbook, this blue card "stub" is your official record that you have completed the merit badge. Hang on to it and keep it in a safe place. You'll be awarded the merit badge at a court of honor.

We have local merit badge counselors for the following merit badges. Even more counselors are available in the Ute District and Pikes Peak Council.

(\*\* denotes Eagle-required merit badges)

American Business	Dog Care	Orienteering
American Heritage	Drafting	Painting
Architecture	Emergency Prep*	Personal Fitness*
Art	Energy	Personal Management*
Astronomy	Engineering	Pets
Aviation	Family Life*	Photography
Backpacking	Fire Safety	Public Speaking
Bird Study	First Aid*	Reading
Camping*	Fish and Wildlife	Reptile/Amphibian Safety
Canoeing	Fishing	Salesmanship
Cit In World*	Fly Fishing	Scholarship
Coin Collecting	Genealogy	Sculpture
Collections	Geology	Snow Sports
Communications*	Golf	Soil and Water
Computers	Hiking*	Space Exploration
Cooking	Home Repairs	Sports
Crime Prevention	Horsemanship	Stamp Collecting
Cycling*	Landscape Architect	
Dentistry	Lifesaving*	
Disability Aware	Music	

>>>> [www.meritbadge.com](http://www.meritbadge.com) is an excellent resource for reviewing merit badge requirements .<<<<

**Adults and parents!**

Please consider becoming a merit badge counselor! With a troop of 60 boys, we are always in need of committed, energetic adults who model winning attitudes and behaviors. We would benefit from coverage in the following merit badges.

American Cultures	Electricity	Medicine	Rowing
American Labor	Electronics	Metalwork	Shotgun Shooting
Animal Science	Entrepreneur	Model Design	Skating
Archaeology	Environmental Sci*	Motorboating	Small Boat Sailing
Archery	Farm Mechanics	Nature	Surveying
Athletics	Fingerprinting	Oceanography	Textile
Atomic Energy	Forestry	Pioneering	Traffic Safety
Auto Mechanic	Gardening	Plant Science	Truck Transport
Basketry	Graphic Arts	Plumbing	Veterinary Medicine
Bugling	Indian Lore	Pottery	Waterskiing
Chemistry	Insect Study	Public Health	Weather
Cinematography	Journalism	Pulp and Paper	Whitewater
Cit In Community*	Law	Radio	Wood Carving
Cit In Nation*	Leatherwork	Railroading	
Climbing	Mammal Study	Rifle Shooting	

*For more information, please contact Phil Barnett at 685-4524 or email [webmaster@mstroop18.org](mailto:webmaster@mstroop18.org)*