

BSA Merit Badge Process

Troop 479 follows the BSA merit badge procedure. We have a booklet of all available merit badges. We have a list of registered merit badge counselors. It is the responsibility of each Scout to select and earn merit badges that interest him.

Pick a Subject: Look through the Boy Scout Requirements booklet at the available merit badges and their requirements, or review the merit badges on a web site. Talk to your Scoutmaster about your interests. Pick a merit badge to earn.

Find a Buddy: You must have another person with you at every meeting with the merit badge counselor. This person can be another Scout, your parent, a brother or sister, or a friend. It is more fun if you have a scout buddy earning the merit badge with you.

Receive Approval: Talk to your Scoutmaster or Advancement Chair about the merit badge you want to earn. Tell him who your partner will be for this badge. Your Scoutmaster or Advancement Chair will give you a blue merit badge card with his signature on it. He will also help you find a merit badge counselor for this badge. You must have a blue merit badge card signed by your Scoutmaster or Advancement Chair before proceeding with your merit badge. You can request a blue card easily on the TroopKit.com web site.

Meet Your Counselor: Speak with the merit badge counselor and tell him/her that you would like to earn the merit badge. Tell the counselor you have your blue card. The counselor will set up a time to meet with you and your buddy to explain what is expected of you and to start helping you meet the requirements. When you know what is expected, start to learn and do the things required. Read the merit badge pamphlet to learn a lot about the subject – you can check a pamphlet out from the troop librarian by requesting the pamphlet on the TroopKit.com web site. Ask your counselor to help with the things you need help to complete.

Show Your Stuff: When you are ready, call the counselor again to make an appointment to meet the requirements. Take the projects you've made and the work you've done so you can demonstrate your completion of the requirements. If projects are too big, arrange to have the counselor come and see them or ask if you can bring a photograph of the project instead. The counselor will ask you to do each and every 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 the requirements, s/he will sign your blue merit badge card. Turn in the completed blue merit badge card to your Scoutmaster or Advancement Chair so the merit badge patch can be ordered.

Requirements: You are expected to meet the requirements as they are stated. You are expected to do exactly what is stated. If it says, "show or demonstrate" that is what you must do – just telling about it isn't enough. The same is true for requirements such as "make", "collect", "identify", and "label".

Scoutmaster: Paul Kautz 952-974-2935
Advancement Chair: Paul Savereide 952-294-0312

Troop 479 Merit Badge Guidelines

Each scout has a Scout Handbook in which he should track the completion of his merit badges for rank advancement. It is the responsibility of the scout to select and earn the merit badges he needs.

The troop will make everything available to scouts that they need for selecting merit badges and merit badge counselors:

- The Merit Badge Counselor list is in the Troop Library
- The Merit Badge Pamphlets are in the Troop Library
- The Boy Scout Requirements booklet is in the Troop Library
- Blue merit badge cards are with the Scoutmaster and Advancement Chair

Scouts in a patrol can decide together to do a particular merit badge. This fulfills the scout buddy requirement and does not create a classroom environment for the merit badge.

Each merit badge counselor will set the limit of number of scouts s/he will counsel at a time. This takes precedence over patrols taking a merit badge as a group.

Merit badge counselors for merit badges that are popular year to year may offer those merit badges on a regular schedule. These are typically Eagle-required merit badges. Scouts should not expect merit badges to be offered, but should proactively pursue merit badges needed for advancement or for the enjoyment of learning something new.

The troop may offer specific merit badges at some events, for example the Snow Sports merit badge on a skiing campout or the Railroading merit badge at an afternoon fieldtrip.

The troop will not participate in "Merit Badge Clinics" or events set up specifically for the quick completion of multiple merit badges.

Troop meetings will not be used for merit badge work. All merit badge meetings will be held separate from troop meetings, at the convenience of the merit badge counselor.