

# SCOUT AND PARENT GUIDE TO MERIT BADGE ADVANCEMENT



AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF ADVANCEMENT FOR THE RANKS OF STAR, LIFE AND EAGLE IS THE OBTAINING OF MERIT BADGES BY A SCOUT, ALTHOUGH SCOUTS OF ANY RANK MAY OBTAIN A MERIT BADGE AND ARE ENCOURAGED TO DO SO.

THIS CAN OCCUR IN SEVERAL WAYS:

(1) SUMMER CAMP: During summer camp each Scout is afforded the opportunity to obtain one or more merit badges which are offered by the camp staff. While a first year Scout attending camp does not have the opportunity to choose which merit badge to obtain (as these are preselected), second year and above Scouts are able to make these selections themselves taking into account the level of skill and maturity involved for the merit badge(s) of interest.

(2) MERIT BADGE JAMBOREE: The Colonial District (our District) sponsors a one-day Merit Badge Jamboree each February. While several Eagle-required merit badges are offered (generally in the "Citizenship" series), the intent of the Jamboree is to provide exposure to merit badges that might not otherwise be encountered by the Scout during his Scouting career.

(3) TROOP 654 PROGRAMS: The Troop may sponsor Troop-wide merit badge programs for merit badges such as Motorboating, First Aid, Wilderness Survival, Camping, Climbing, among others, depending upon the interests of the Scouts in the Troop. Such programs may occur during Troop meetings, on campouts, or at other times such as weekend meetings.

(4) SPECIAL PROGRAMS: The Scout may have occasion to visit a non-Boy Scout locale such as a "space camp" or ski resort which may offer a related merit badge during attendance by the Scout.

(5) SELF-STUDY: The most traditional way to obtain a merit badge is through a self-study program. This requires study of the merit badge booklet by the Scout, completing the requirements for that badge, and arranging a meeting with a counselor for that badge so that the counselor may determine if the Scout has successfully completed the merit badge requirements. The merit badge counselor will generally not be an adult from Troop 654.

Prior to undertaking this course of action, the Scout must contact the Scoutmaster who will confirm that the merit badge chosen is suitable for the Scout at that point in his Scouting career, and provide a signed "blue card" which the Scout will provide to the counselor upon meeting with the counselor. If the Scout successfully completes the merit badge requirements, the counselor will sign the blue card to confirm this. The signed blue card should then be returned to the Scoutmaster for signature and transmittal to the Troop Advancement Chairman, after which the merit badge will be awarded to the Scout. Note: The Scoutmaster has a current listing of merit badge counselors and can provide a listing of names for counselors for a particular merit badge upon request by the Scout.

Important: As many (but not all) merit badges can be completed by the self-study method, no Scout should rely on Summer Camp, the Merit Badge Jamboree or Troop 654 programs as the sole opportunities to obtain merit badges. It is desirable, in fact, for Scouts to work on merit badges during the school year on an independent basis. The web site [MeritBadge.com](http://MeritBadge.com) contains a listing of all merit badge requirements as well as work sheets to assist the Scout with respect to completing a merit badge. However, under no

circumstance should a Scout attempt to obtain a merit badge without review of the merit badge booklet (the booklet provides all information "needed to complete the merit badge). In fact, the counselor may not agree to approve award of the merit badge if the Scout has not read the booklet.

The Troop has merit badge booklets for a large number of different merit badges in the Troop library (see the Troop librarian at a meeting to check out a booklet).

The rank of Star Scout requires a Scout to earn 6 merit badges, of which 4 are Eagle-required badges.

The rank of Life Scout requires a Scout to earn an additional 5 merit badges, of which 3 are Eagle-required badges.

To attain the rank of Eagle, a Scout must earn an additional 10 merit badges, for a total of 21 badges. Eagle "palms" are awarded for each additional 5 merit badges earned. Of the merit badges earned for Eagle rank, the following merit badges are "Eagle-required":

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

Attached is a listing of all merit badges available for Scouts to earn (a total of 119 merit badges are offered). See Meritbadge.com for specific requirements for the merit badges.

The following merit badges are generally offered at summer camp, with the specific badges offered depending upon the camp:

Archery	Fish and Wildlife Management	
Art	Fishing	Shotgun Shooting
Astronomy	Forestry	Orienteering
Basketry	Indian Lore	Pioneering
Bird Study	Leatherwork	Reptile Study
Camping	Lifesaving	Rifle Shooting
Canoeing	Mammal Study	Rowing
Climbing	Motorboating	Swimming
Soil & Water Conservation		
Cooking	Nature	Weather
Emergency Preparedness		Wilderness Survival
Environmental Science		

Scouts should attempt to earn the Eagle-required badges of (1) Swimming, (2) Lifesaving or Emergency Preparedness, (3) First Aid, (4) Environmental Science and (5) Camping at summer camp (this will probably occur over a several year period of attendance at camp). Additional merit badges earned at camp will count toward the minimum number of merit badge requirements required for Star, Life and Eagle ranks.

The choice of which merit badges to take at summer camp will be determined by the interests of each Scout, as well as the schedule of merit badges offered by the camp. Remember - merit badges are intended to enhance the personal knowledge/experience of each Scout.

The "Citizenship" series of merit badges can be earned at the merit badge jamboree each year, or as a result of "self-study".

Camping merit badge will also be offered through the Troop either during the year or at summer camp apart from the camp program (please note that one requirement for this merit badge is to camp for 20 days and nights, with 6 days and nights of summer camp being included).

In the event a Scout does not complete all requirements for a merit badge while at camp, he will receive a "partial". The missing requirements can be completed at a later date with a different counselor.

## Individual Merit Badges

(The names of Eagle required badges are in bold)

American Business, American Culture, American Heritage, American Labor, Animal Science, Archaeology, Archery, Architecture, Art, Astronomy, Athletics, Atomic Energy, Auto Mechanics, and Aviation.

Backpacking, Basketry, Bird Study, and Bugling.

Camping, Canoeing, Chemistry, Cinematography, **Citizenship in the Community**, **Citizenship in the Nation**, **Citizenship in the World**, Climbing, Coin Collecting, Collections, Communications, Computers, Cooking, Crime Prevention, and Cycling.

Dentistry, Disabilities Awareness, Dog Care, and Drafting.

Electricity, Electronics, Emergency Preparedness, Energy, Engineering, Entrepreneurship, and Environmental Science.

Family Life, Farm Mechanics, Fingerprinting, Fire Safety, First Aid, Fish and Wildlife Management, Fishing, Fly Fishing, and Forestry.

Gardening, Genealogy, Geology, Golf, and Graphic Arts.

Hiking, Home Repairs, and Horsemanship.

Indian Lore, and Insect Study.

Journalism.

Landscape Architecture, Law, Leatherwork, and Lifesaving.

Mammal Study, Medicine, Metalwork, Model Design and Building, Motorboating, and Music.

Nature.

Oceanography, and Orienteering.

Painting, Personal Fitness, Personal Management, Pets, Photography, Pioneering, Plant Science, Plumbing, Pottery, Public Health, Public Speaking, and Pulp and Paper.

Radio, Railroading, Reading, Reptile and Amphibian Study, Rifle Shooting, and Rowing.

Safety, Salesmanship, Scholarship, Sculpture, Shotgun Shooting, Skating, Small-Boat Sailing, Snow Sports, Soil and Water Conservation, Space Exploration, Sports, Stamp Collecting, Surveying, and Swimming.

Textile, Theater, Traffic Safety, and Truck Transportation.

Veterinary Medicine.

Water Skiing, Weather, Whitewater, Wilderness Survival, Wood Carving, and Woodwork.

