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Introduction to Merit Badges

You can learn about sports, crafts, science, trades, business, and future careers as you earn merit badges. There are more than 100 merit badges. 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 or other 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 to meet you to explain what is expected of you and to start helping you meet the requirements. You should also discuss work that you have already started or possibly completed.

Unless otherwise specified, work for a requirement can be started at any time. 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.

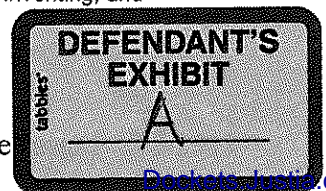
Get the Badge. When the counselor is satisfied that you have met each requirement, he or she will sign your application. Give the signed application to your Scoutmaster so that your merit badge emblem can be secured for you.

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."

The requirements listed here are the official requirements of the Boy Scouts of America. However, the requirements presented here might not match those in the *Boy Scout Handbook* and the merit badge pamphlets, because these requirements are updated only when the *Boy Scout Requirements* book is updated. The only significant difference is that as new merit badges are introduced, the requirements are posted here.

The current Boy Scout Requirements book is available from your local Scouting merchandise distributor. It may also be ordered online at www.scoutstuff.org.

Requirements for the Astronomy, Horsemanship, and Nuclear Science merit badge have extensive changes. Those with minor revisions include Archery (5, options A[f]2 and B[f]2) and Sports (2). Geocaching, Inventing, and



If a Scout has already started working on a merit badge when a new edition of the pamphlet is introduced, *he should continue to use the same merit badge pamphlet and fulfill the requirements therein to earn the badge.* He need not start all over again with the new pamphlet and possibly revised requirements.

Scouting Heritage are new merit badges.

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The 2009 printing of the Boy Scout Handbook inadvertently included bugler as a position of responsibility under Eagle Scout requirement 4; it is not. The requirements in the 2011 Boy Scout Requirements book are correct and official.

Resources

- [Introductory Guide for Merit Badge Counselors](#)

Merit Badge Requirements

Below is a list, in alphabetical order, of all of the current merit badge subjects. Click each subject to see the requirements for that merit badge.



American Business



American Cultures



American Heritage



American Labor



Animal Science



Archaeology



Archery



Architecture



Art



Astronomy



Athletics



Automotive Maintenance



Aviation



Backpacking



Basketry



Bird Study



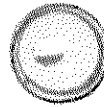
Bugling



Camping



Canoeing



Chemistry



Cinematography



Citizenship in the Community



Citizenship in the Nation



Citizenship in the World



Climbing



Coin Collecting



Collections



Communication



Composite Materials



Computers



Cooking



Crime Prevention



Cycling



Dentistry



Disabilities Awareness

				
Dog Care	Drafting	Electricity	Electronics	Emergency Preparedness
				
Energy	Engineering	Entrepreneurship	Environmental Science	Family Life
				
Farm Mechanics	Fingerprinting	Fire Safety	First Aid	Fish and Wildlife Management
				
Fishing	Fly-Fishing	Forestry	Gardening	Genealogy
				
Geocaching	Geology	Golf	Graphic Arts	Hiking
				
Home Repairs	Horsemanship	Indian Lore	Insect Study	Inventing
				
Journalism	Landscape Architecture	Law	Leatherwork	Lifesaving
				
Mammal Study	Medicine	Metalwork	Model Design and Building	Motorboating
				
Music	Nature	Nuclear Science	Oceanography	Orienteering

				
Painting	Personal Fitness	Personal Management	Pets	Photography
				
Pioneering	Plant Science	Plumbing	Pottery	Public Health
				
Public Speaking	Pulp and Paper	Radio	Railroading	Reading
				
Reptile and Amphibian Study	Rifle Shooting	Rowing	Safety	Salesmanship
				
Scholarship	Scouting Heritage	Scuba Diving	Sculpture	Shotgun Shooting
				
Skating	Small-Boat Sailing	Snow Sports	Soil and Water Conservation	Space Exploration
				
Sports	Stamp Collecting	Surveying	Swimming	Textile
				
Theater	Traffic Safety	Truck Transportation	Veterinary Medicine	Water Sports
				
Weather	Whitewater	Wilderness Survival	Wood Carving	Woodwork

