

"Blue Card" Process

This page describes the process of using Blue Cards for merit badges. Please read this carefully. If you have any questions please contact 'Merit Badge Coor.' (Scott Taylor) using our '[Contact Us](#)' form.

Key Merit Badge Rules

- *"Any Boy Scout may earn any merit badge at any time. You don't need to have had rank advancement to be eligible."*
- *"You must have another person with you at each meeting with the merit badge counselor."*
- *"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."*
- Note that some Merit Badges [Require Prior Approval](#) for certain requirements. The rest do not: *" Any Boy Scout may earn any merit badge at any time...You are expected to meet the requirements as they are stated - no more and no less." - [Boy Scout Requirements](#) p. 22 - 23.*
- The use of [Merit Badge Worksheets](#) cannot be added as a requirement by a counselor.
- See the [Merit Badge FAQ](#) for answers to many common questions.

Process

1. A Scout first expresses an interest in a particular merit badge by letting his unit leader know.
2. To get him started, the Scout should get a blue card from a troop leader. The card has 3 sections which need to be filled out by the Scout. The Scout keeps all 3 parts of the Blue Card until he has completed all requirements of the merit badge. The Scout should fill out the front section, and have the leader sign the front of the card. This "opens" the merit badge.
3. The scout may log into the Troop Forum to locate and schedule an appointment with a merit badge counselor. Names, phone numbers and email for counselors registered with our troop are available only via our Forum. A boy may use a counselor registered for that merit badge with the BSA anywhere in the US, but if the counselor is not known to the Troop, the Troop may ask for proof that the counselor is a registered counselor.
4. The merit badge counselor sets a date and time to meet with the Scout and may suggest the Scout bring the merit badge pamphlet along with the blue card.
5. At the first meeting, the Scout and his merit badge counselor review and start working on the requirements. In some cases, the Scout may share with the merit badge counselor the work he has started or accomplished. But in general, things done before the card is opened don't count. For example, "well, one time, when I was at my Grandmother's house last summer, I did..." If the Scout has not yet obtained a Blue Card, the counselor may provide one at this meeting.
6. As steps are completed, the counselor initials the Blue Card, noting the step as completed.
7. When all requirements are completed, the counselor signs the Blue Card, noting that all requirements are complete, and returns the card to the Scout, who in turn schedules a meeting with the Scoutmaster, or other adult leader, for review. The Scout can use the 'Contact Us' form on the website for this purpose.
8. Upon completion of the Scoutmaster review, the Scoutmaster will sign the Blue Card.
9. When the young man has completed all the requirements, the card needs to be signed by the adult leader in the middle section as well. Upon completion of the merit badge, one section will be given to the scout, another will be retained by the counselor, and the last will be filed with the troop achievement chair.

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After completion of the merit badge requirements:

1. The Scout has completed and earned the merit badge, but has not yet been formally recognized for the achievement. Recognition occurs at the next Court-of-Honor.
2. The Scout will receive the merit badge patch at the next Court-of-Honor. The merit badge patch should be sewn onto a BSA sash as soon as possible.
3. The Scout should keep the signed Blue Card as a permanent record of his completion of the merit badge requirements.