

How to Earn a Merit Badge

As a scout advances on the trail to Eagle, certain skills are learned such as citizenship, first aid, camping, and cooking. Some of these are learned just by working with your patrol. Others require study on your part at your pace. Merit badges are subjects that will introduce you to new interests and hobbies. Many men today are working in jobs that they first learned about and grew to like as a result of earning merit badges.

These steps are:

1. Select the merit badge you want to work on. The subjects and the patch are shown in Merit Badge Handbook or your Scout handbook.
2. Obtain the merit badge booklet.
 - Buy it from a store that sells scouting supplies such as the Long Beach Council Scout Shop
 - Get it from the troop library. (We do have most of them)
 - Borrow it from your local public library.
 - Get it from a friend in the troop.
3. Get a blue merit badge card from the Scout Shop, fill it out, and have it signed by the Scoutmaster.
4. Call the Scoutmaster to get the name and phone number for the Counselor for your merit badge subject. Call this counselor *BEFORE YOU START THE REQUIREMENTS*. The counselor will give you any special requirements or changes regarding your merit badge. He/she will counsel you on the subject if you need it. Write down his/her phone number for the future. If you should have any problems, call the Scoutmaster.
5. When you have finished all the requirements for the merit badge, call your counselor and set up an appointment to sign off the requirements.
6. Present yourself on time for the appointment, in Class "A" uniform. Your counselor will test you and sign off the blue card, keeping one portion for his/her records.
7. Bring the blue card to the troop meeting and give it to the Advancement Chairperson. The badge will be purchased at scout headquarters for you. The blue card will be kept there for their records.
8. Keep your portion of the blue card in your "safe place." You should have a place where you keep important papers. Someday, perhaps at your Eagle Board, someone may ask you to prove you have earned the badge. Your counselor may have moved so don't lose your records.
9. Receive the badge at the next Court of Honor.