

# Merit Badges – What, Why and Where?

- Merit Badges are awards earned by members of the Boy Scouts of America, based on activities within the area of study by completing a list of periodically updated requirements
- Merit badges exist to encourage Scouts to explore areas that interest them and to teach them valuable skills in Scoutcraft. The award of merit badges sometimes leads to careers and lifelong hobbies.
- <a href="https://www.scouting.org/programs/scouts-bsa/advancement-and-awards/merit-badges/">https://www.scouting.org/programs/scouts-bsa/advancement-and-awards/merit-badges/</a>

### Merit Badges – Eagle Required vs. Not?

A total of 21 merit badges (10 more than required for the Life rank) must be earned for the Eagle Scout rank, including these 13 merit badges:

- First Aid
- Citizenship in the Community
- Citizenship in the Nation
- Citizenship in the World
- Communication
- Cooking
- Personal Fitness

- Environmental Science OR Sustainability
- Personal Management
- Swimming OR Hiking OR Cycling
- Camping
- Family Life



## How do I start a Merit Badge?

Pick a subject that interests you

https://www.scouting.org/programs/scouts-bsa/advancement-and-awards/merit-badges/

- Discuss with your family
- Discuss with your Patrol/Troop
- Discuss with SM/ASM
- Open up a Merit Badge with the Advancement Chair

- Attend a Merit Badge Day
- Troop Sponsored Events
- CPC Sponsored Events
- Evergreen Aviation Museum
- Online Merit Badge Courses
- Cabela's Merit Badge Days

## What can I expect to do for a Merit Badge?

### For the Blue Card

- Get a Blue Card
- Fill it out
- Get it signed by the SM
- Contact MBC
- Do the work
- Get it signed by the MBC
- Get it signed by the SM
- Turn it in

### In General

- Be Safe
- Observe YPT Youth Protection
- Do, Show, Explain, Demonstrate, Tell, Research etc... are all examples of the essence of a requirement, what ever is stated is what is required
- Keep track of your Blue Card
- Keep track of your MBC
- Requirements do change usually a grace period of 1 year

## Merit Badge Success – Resources and Organization

### **Stay Organized**

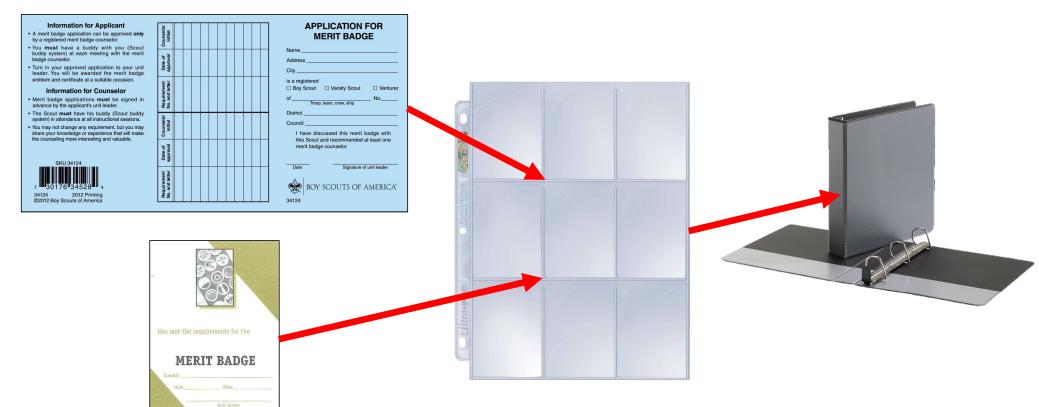
- Notebook / 3 Ring Binder
- Card Collecting Inserts
- Use Worksheets
  - Not for turning in
  - Good for remembering
  - <a href="http://usscouts.org/usscouts/meritba">http://usscouts.org/usscouts/meritba</a>
     <a href="http://usscouts/meritba">dges.asp</a>
  - https://boyscouttrail.com/boyscouts/meritbadges/
- Covid-19 Detail
  - Ensure Troopmaster Record
- Take pictures after progress

# Identify and use resources effectively

- People
  - Family
  - Troop staff and other adults
  - Council staff
  - Community members
- Places/Things
  - Library
  - Online resources
- <a href="https://www.scouting.org/coronavirus/covid-19-fag/">https://www.scouting.org/coronavirus/covid-19-fag/</a>

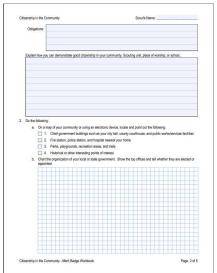
# Use 3 Ring Binder with Collecting Inserts

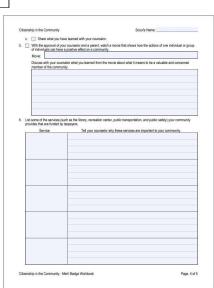
BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

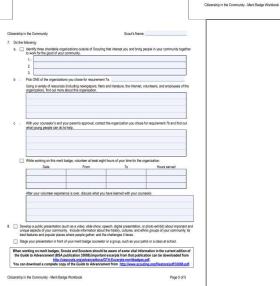


### http://usscouts.org/mb/worksheets/citizenship-in-the-community.pdf









Citizenship in the Community
3. Do the following:

On the following:
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 With your counselor's and a perent's approval, interview one person from the branch of government you identified in requirement 4a. Ask what is being done about this issue and how young people can help.

4. Choose an issue that is important to the citizens of your community, then do the following:

 Find out which branch of local government is responsible for this issue.

Who was interviewed?

## What is a Troop Library?

A collection of books and other documents related to scouting

- Leadership
- Organization
- Skits
- Songs
- Maps
- Manuals
- Other items...

**Merit Badge Books!** 

**Contact your Troop Librarian today!** 

# What is a Merit Badge Book?

What they used to look like

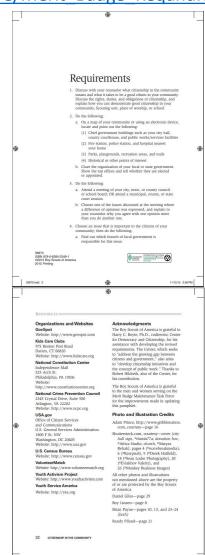
What they look like now





### https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/Merit Badge ReqandRes/Citizenship in the Community.pdf







### Information for Applicant

- A ment beings application can be approved only by a registered ment badge courselor.
- You must have a buddy with you (Scoot boody system) at each meeting with the melt begge counseles.
- Turn in your approved application to your unit leader. You will be awarded the ment badge embers and conflicate at a suitable occasion.

### Information for Counselor

- Merit bedge applications must be signed in advance by the applicant's unit leader.
- The fireoit must have his buildy clocus buody system) in attendance at all instructional sessions.
- You may not change any requirement, but you may shore your knowledge or experience that will make the ocurreding more interesting and valuable.

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### **Blue Card – Back**

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### COUNSELOR'S RECORD

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APPLICATION FOR MERIT BADGE

Name

Signature of and health

1. Advancement Chair

### Blue Card – Back

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- 1. Advancement Chair
- 2. Scoutmaster

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### Information for Counselor

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- You may not change any requirement, but you may share your ensembles or experience that will make the counseling more interesting and variable.

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### **Order and Role**

- 1. Advancement Chair
- 2. Scoutmaster
- 3. Applicant

### **Blue Card – Back**

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# Make Contact with your MBC!

- You own this relationship!
- You will keep track of your own records
- You will communicate and drive schedules/meetings/progress
- You will ensure you get signed off for items completed
- If not completed, discuss what is outstanding from the requirement

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# Track Progress Requirement Date Initials

APPLICATION FOR MERIT BADGE Name
Name
Address
City
Boy Scout/Troop 116
Sasquatch
Cascade Pacific

Date SM Signature

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### **Blue Card – Back**

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- 2. Scoutmaster
- 3. Applicant
- **4.** MBC

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# Track Progress Requirement Date Initials

# APPLICATION FOR MERIT BADGE Name Name Address City Boy Scout/Troop 116 Sasquatch Cascade Pacific Date SM Signature

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### **Blue Card – Back**

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- 1. Advancement Chair
- 2. Scoutmaster
- 3. Applicant
- **4.** MBC
- 5. MBC

### Information for Applicant

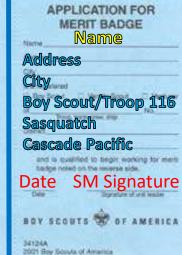
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# Track Progress Requirement Date Initials



### **Blue Card - Back**

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Name of Counselor
Contact Information
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Date State  Conflicent and beings presented.  Tells
Applicant will turn in this portion to his unit leader for record posting.

APPLICANT'S RECORD Name	
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MBC Signature SM Signature	
NOTE TO BOY SCOUT, VARSITY SCOUT, OR VENTURER: Relain this sopy for your permanent records.	



- 1. Advancement Chair
- 2. Scoutmaster
- 3. Applicant
- **4.** MBC
- 5. MBC
- 6. Scoutmaster

# I finished my Merit Badge, now what?

- Keep your portion of the Blue Card
- Go to the Court of Honor
- Keep the card that came with the Merit Badge
- Put the Merit Badge on your Sash
- Wear your Sash with pride



