

TROOP 1519

PROCEDURE #03

MERIT BADGES

A vital part of the BSA's advancement plan, the merit badge program is one of Scouting's basic character-building tools. Through participation in the program, which may begin immediately upon registration in a troop or team, a Scout acquires the self-confidence that comes from overcoming obstacles to achieve a goal.

Merit badge pamphlets

Each merit badge subject is outlined and explained in a pamphlet that contains short, introductory information written for Boy Scouts by recognized authorities. These pamphlets can be borrowed from the Troop Library for up to one month. The library is intended for use by Scouts who are working on a merit badge individually or by counselors. There are not enough pamphlets to supply all Scouts in the troop's merit badge classes. Boys are required to read the applicable merit badge book. Merit badge books can be purchase from the Scout Shop, Sunny's Surplus, or Robcyn's for less than \$4.00. Requirements for each merit badge may also be found in the Boy Scout Requirements Book (No. 33215D), at <http://usscouts.org>, or at www.meritbadges.com.

SCOUT PROCEDURE

1. Before starting work on a particular merit badge, a Scout must:
 - a. Find a fellow Scout with whom to work on the merit badge. If special circumstances make it impossible to on the merit badge with a fellow Scout, the Scout and counselor must receive permission from the troop committee.
 - b. Find a registered merit badge counselor for that badge who is willing to work as his counselor. A list of registered merit badge counselors can be obtained from the Merit Badge Coordinator or the troop website (www.us.net/boy-scouts/troop1519).
 - c. Complete a merit badge application (blue card) and have it signed by the Merit Badge Coordinator or Scoutmaster (or other party as outlined in Troop Procedure #01 – Scoutmaster Signatures).
2. While working on a merit badge, the Scout must use the buddy system when meeting with the merit badge counselor.
3. Upon successfully completing all requirements for the merit badge, the Scout must:
 - a. Have the merit badge counselor sign the blue card to signify successful completion.
 - b. Have the Scoutmaster sign the blue blue card indicating his approval.
 - c. Turn in proper sections of the blue card to the merit badge counselor and Advancement Chair.

COUNSELOR PROCEDURE

A merit badge counselor must be at least 18 years old and be proficient in the merit badge subject by vocation or avocation. In addition, a merit badge counselor must:

1. Register with the troop by completing an adult leader application and the BSA merit badge counselor form.
2. While working with a Scout, the counselor must follow BSA Youth Protection guidelines by ensuring that the Scout is always accompanied by a buddy.
3. Ensure that the Scout has followed the start-up requirements contained above.
4. Follow the requirements of the merit badge making no deletions or additions, to ensure that the advancement standards are fair and uniform for all Scouts. If special circumstances require modification of the merit badge requirements, the counselor must receive permission of the Troop Committee.
5. Renew registration as a merit badge counselor annually.