

Steps to earning a merit badge

1. Decide which merit badge you want to earn. There are over 100 merit badges on a wide range of subjects. There is a VERY good chance that you already have a hobby, skill, or talent that relates to one of the BSA's merit badges! You can find the full list of merit badges and their requirements here:

<http://www.scouting.org/meritbadges.aspx>

2. Talk to the Scoutmaster about your interest in the merit badge. You must get your Scoutmaster's approval to work on a merit badge. The Scoutmaster will sign off on a blue card, and also provide information about how to contact a counselor for the merit badge.

3. Once you have the signed blue card, you can contact a counselor. You will complete the merit badge with the counselor, who will determine whether or not your work will meet the requirements. This will usually require several meetings or discussions with the counselor. The counselor may ask you to re-do work that does not meet the requirements. That's OK, and a normal part of the process.

4. Once you have completed the requirements, the counselor will sign the blue card. The Scoutmaster must also sign the back of the card after the counselor has signed. The blue card has three portions: one for the counselor, one for the you, and one for the troop.

5. Give the troop portion of the blue card to the Advancement Chair.

6. HOLD ON to the "applicant" portion of the blue card. It is YOUR record that you have completed the badge. Keep your blue cards in a safe place!