

HOW TO USE A Blue Card to earn a merit badge

Information for Applicant

- A merit badge application can be approved only by a registered merit badge counselor.
- You must have a buddy with you (Scout buddy system) at each meeting with the merit badge counselor.
- Turn in your approved application to your unit leader. You will be awarded the merit badge unknown and overflows at a suitable occasion.

Information for Counselor

Merit badge applications must be signed in advance by the applicant's unit leader.

- The Scout must have the buddy (Scout buddy system) in attendance at all instructional sessions.
- You may not charge any requirement, but you may share your knowledge or experience that will make the counseling more interesting and valuable.

Front

APPLICATION FOR MERIT BADGE

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

is a registered Day Scout Varsity Scout Venture Scout

of Troop _____ No. _____

District _____

Council _____

I have discussed this merit badge with the Scout and recommended at least one merit badge counselor.

Date _____

Signature of unit leader _____

Back

COUNSELOR'S RECORD

Applicant _____

Unit number _____

Must badge _____

Date Completed _____

Remarks _____

I suggest that the counselor keep this record for at least 1 year in case any questions are raised.

APPLICANT'S RECORD

Name _____

has given me his completed application for the Merit Badge _____

Completed on _____

Signature of Counselor _____

Signature of unit leader _____

NOTE TO BOY SCOUT, VARSITY SCOUT, OR EXPLORER: Retain this copy for your permanent records.

STEP ONE

APPLICATION FOR MERIT BADGE

Name John Scout

Address 12 Evergreen Terrace

City Springfield

is a registered Day Scout Varsity Scout Venture Scout

of Troop _____ No. 24

District Jebediah Springfield

Council Monorail Center

I have discussed this merit badge with the Scout and recommended at least one merit badge counselor.

Date 12/12/12

Signature of unit leader N. Flanders

A few merit badges have prerequisites, but any registered Scout may work on any of them at any time (after his unit leader has signed the blue card acknowledging that the Scout is registered, has discussed the merit badge with his unit leader and has secured a registered counselor.) Scouts are free to choose any registered counselor (including their parents or other family members).

STEP TWO

The Scout calls the counselor and arranges to meet them. Meetings may happen at the counselor's office, work site, or home. They may begin discussing what the Scout already knows followed with coaching, guidance, and additional meetings. The Guide to Safe Scouting, and the "Sweet 16 of BSA Safety" must be followed. Scouts *must not meet one-on-one with adults*. Meetings must take place where others can view the interaction, or the Scout must have a buddy: a friend, parent, —or better yet, another Scout working on the same badge. The Scout should bring any required projects or evidence, such as photographs or certification.

If not complete

When complete

Merit Badge	Scout	Counselor	Date
Camping	J. S.	N. F.	12/12/12

The counselor records and initials the completed requirements and gives the Scout the whole blue card so he has a record of work completed to date.

When the Scout completes all the requirements with another registered counselor, or the same one he began working with, then he follows the directions at the right.

Scouts need not pass all requirements with one counselor. A subsequent counselor may choose not to accept partial work, but this should be rare. A Scout who believes he is being treated unfairly may work with his Scoutmaster to find another counselor. Partials have no expiration except the 18th birthday.

Once It Is Earned, It's Earned
Once a registered and approved counselor has passed a Scout on requirements for a merit badge, it cannot be taken away. Unit leadership does not have the authority to retract approval, or take the badge away. If a merit badge counselor were found to be improperly documented, it would be a rare occasion when a Scout would be penalized for the mistake of an adult volunteer.

when completed

STEP THREE

COUNSELOR'S RECORD

Applicant John Scout

Unit number 24

Must badge Camping

Date Completed 12/30/13

The **COUNSELOR'S RECORD** panel is filled out. The counselor removes this part of the blue card and keeps it

APPLICANT'S RECORD

Name John Scout

has given me his completed application for the Merit Badge Camping

Completed on 12/30/13

Signature of Counselor Dr. Julius Hibbert

Signature of unit leader Dr. Julius Hibbert

The center panel is filled out and the counselor signs it.

APPLICANT'S RECORD

Name John Scout

has given me his completed application for the Merit Badge Camping

Completed on 12/30/13

Signature of Counselor Dr. Julius Hibbert

Signature of unit leader Dr. Julius Hibbert

The **APPLICANT'S RECORD** panel is filled out and the counselor signs it.

The Scout takes the blue card troop

STEP FOUR

Merit Badge

John Scout

Camping

Monorail Center

TR. 24 2/28/13

N. Flanders

The center panel is given to the advancement chairman who records the achievement and indicate they have done so by initialing and dating the card.

When the badge and certificate are presented the date is noted here.

COUNSELOR'S RECORD

Applicant John Scout

Unit number 24

Must badge Camping

Date Completed 12/30/13

Signature of Counselor Dr. Julius Hibbert

Signature of unit leader Dr. Julius Hibbert

Certificate and badge presented 2/28/13

APPLICANT'S RECORD

Name John Scout

has given me his completed application for the Merit Badge Camping

Completed on 12/30/13

Signature of Counselor Dr. Julius Hibbert

Signature of unit leader N. Flanders

The **APPLICANT'S RECORD** panel signed by the unit leader and the Scout keeps it with his other advancement records.

The **Guide to Advancement** is the official source for policies and procedures.

ScoutmasterCG.com

IDEAS, INFORMATION, AND INSPIRATION FOR SCOUT LEADERS

- Camping skills and outdoorsmanship
- Gear reviews and advice
- Practical help for Scout volunteers

