

Troop 902 Merit Badge Information

What are Merit Badges?

Merit Badges are earned awards that Boy Scouts personally work on to achieve. They can learn about sports, crafts, science, trades, business, and future careers as they work and earn merit badges. There are more than 100 merit badges. Any Boy Scout may earn any merit badge at any time. You don't need to have had rank advancement to be eligible. A Scout needs to earn at least 21 Merit Badges of which 12 must be those designated as Eagle Required. The Eagle Required Merit Badges will be discussed later on in this document. The Scout is encouraged to earn more than 21 Merit Badges, if possible.

Below is a list of all of the current Merit Badge Subjects. A Scout can obtain the necessary requirements by purchasing the related handbook from the Scout Store located across from the Blue Rocks Stadium in Wilmington, Delaware, borrowing the related handbook from another scout or access the information directly from the following Merit Badge Website:

<http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/MeritBadges>

Merit Badge List



American Business



American Cultures



American Heritage



American Labor



Animal Science



Archaeology



Archery



Architecture



Art



Astronomy



Athletics



Automotive Maintenance



Aviation



Backpacking



Basketry



Bird Study



Bugling



Camping



Canoeing



Chemistry

Troop 902 Merit Badge Information



Chess



Cinematography



Citizenship in the
Community



Citizenship in the
Nation



Citizenship in the
World



Climbing



Coin Collecting



Collections



Communication



Composite Materials



Computers



Cooking



Crime Prevention



Cycling



Dentistry



Disabilities Awareness



Dog Care



Drafting



Electricity



Electronics



Emergency Preparedness



Energy



Engineering



Entrepreneurship



Environmental Science



Family Life



Farm Mechanics



Fingerprinting



Fire Safety



First Aid



Fish and Wildlife
Management



Fishing



Fly-Fishing



Forestry



Gardening

Troop 902 Merit Badge Information



Genealogy



Geocaching



Geology



Golf



Graphic Arts



Hiking



Home Repairs



Horsemanship



Indian Lore



Insect Study



Inventing



Journalism



Landscape Architecture



Law



Leatherwork



Lifesaving



Mammal Study



Medicine



Metalwork



Model Design and
Building



Motorboating



Music



Nature



Nuclear Science



Oceanography



Orienteering



Painting



Personal Fitness



Personal
Management



Pets



Photography



Pioneering



Plant Science



Plumbing



Pottery

Troop 902 Merit Badge Information



Public Health



Public Speaking



Pulp and Paper



Radio



Railroading



Reading



Reptile and Amphibian
Study



Rifle Shooting



Robotics



Rowing



Safety



Salesmanship



Scholarship



Scouting Heritage



Scuba Diving



Sculpture



Shotgun Shooting



Skating



Small-Boat Sailing



Snow Sports



Soil and Water
Conservation



Space Exploration



Sports



Stamp Collecting



Surveying



Swimming



Textile



Theater



Traffic Safety



Truck Transportation



Veterinary Medicine



Water Sports



Weather



Whitewater



Wilderness Survival

Troop 902 Merit Badge Information



Wood Carving



Woodwork

12 Required Badges for Eagle

- Camping
- Citizenship in the Community
- Citizenship in the Nation
- Citizenship in the World
- Communications
- Emergency Preparedness or Lifesaving
- Environmental Science
- Family Life
- First Aid
- Personal Fitness
- Personal Management
- Swimming, Hiking or Cycling

Troop 902 – Merit Badge Information

Guidelines for choosing Merit Badge

The Scout needs to pick a subject or area of interest. The Scout may also talk to his Scoutmaster about his interests or other scouts in order to get information regarding Merit badges that they have earned. The Scout must read the requirements of the merit badges you think might interest you. Pick the ones that they would like to earn. Review and complete all of the listed prerequisites, then contact the associated Boy Scout Counselor for that Merit Badge.

Note: Your Scoutmaster will be able to provide you with the name of a Boy Scout Counselor from a list of Local Counselors. These counselors are trained and certified by the Boy Scouts of America. They have special knowledge in their merit badge subjects and are interested in helping you.

There are several opportunities for the Scout to earn Merit badges. However, there is no easy way. The Scout must satisfactorily complete all listed requirements to the satisfaction of the assigned Counselor in order to earn/obtain the Merit Badge

The following opportunities exist within Troop 902:

- Scout initiated by contacting a Boy Scout Counselor directly
- From Merit Badge College
- Summer Camp
- Troop Achieved

Scout initiated:

The Scout selects the Merit Badge that he wants to work on then obtains the necessary Handbook/Workbook; Blue Card then contacts the listed Merit Badge Counselor in order to begin the quest for the Merit Badge. Upon completion of all requirements, the Counselor will sign off the Blue Card. The Scout must turn the Blue Card into the Scoutmaster or Designated Troop Merit Badge Coordinator for processing. The Actual Merit Badge is presented at the next Troop Court of Honor.

Note: Remember the **Scout Buddy System**. *You must have another person with you at each meeting with the merit badge counselor.* This person can be another Scout, your parents or guardian, a brother or sister or other relative, or a friend.

Merit Badge College:

The Scout is given the opportunity to selected Merit Badges normally three to four that are offer by the Local Scout Council in a classroom like setting. This takes place over two Saturdays one in February and the second in March. They are full days of learning. Normally upon the completion of the second Saturday the Scout has successfully met all listed requirements and has their Blue Merit Badge Cards signed off by the attending Scout Counselor. The Blue Card is then turn into the Troop Scoutmaster or Designated

Troop 902 – Merit Badge Information

Troop Merit Badge Coordinator for processing. The Actual Merit Badge is presented at the next Troop Court of Honor.

Summer Camp:

This is normally a week long camping related activity that occurs during the summer. Scouts stay at a designated location, selected by the Troop Membership. Scouts select their Merit Badges that they want to pursue. It is recommended that the Scouts take on at least one or two Eagle Required Merit Badges during this time frame since they have more time to focus on the requirements.

The Local Boy Scout Council provides counselors that are onsite the entire time. Scouts attend classes at various times throughout the day for each of the Merit Badges they have selected. The Troop will provide the Scout with Blue Cards for each selected Merit Badge. The Scout is responsible for completing any and all prerequisites of the Merit badges prior to attending Camp. Again, once all required items have been completed the Counselor will sign of the Blue Card and return it to the Scout. The Scout is responsible for turning the Blue Card back into the Scoutmaster or Designated Troop Merit Badge Coordinator for processing. The Actual Merit Badge is presented at the next Troop Court of Honor

Troop Achieved

This is an opportunity where the Scoutmaster and the Senior Patrol Leaders select Merit Badges that the Troop will work on as a unit through out the year. There is the possibility for the Scouts to earn up to four Merit Badges during this period of time. Again it is the responsibility of the Scout to complete any and all prerequisites associated with the Merit Badges as well as to work on the Merit Badge Requirements to keep pace with the unit. Once all required items have been completed the Counselor will sign of the Blue Card and return it to the Scout. The Scout is responsible for turning the Blue Card back into the Scoutmaster or Designated Troop Merit Badge Coordinator for processing. The Actual Merit Badge is presented at the next Troop Court of Honor

Merit Badge Counselors:

NOTE: All Counselors including Summer Camp Counselors must pass Boys Scouts of America Screening and certification prior to functioning as a Counselor.

The counselor may ask to meet you to explain what is expected of you and to start helping you meet the requirements. You should also discuss work that you have already started or possibly completed.

The Merit badge counselor is a key player in the Boy Scout advancement program. Whatever their area of expertise or interest—whether it is a special craft or hobby (basketry, leatherwork, coin collecting), a profession (veterinary medicine, aviation,

Troop 902 – Merit Badge Information

engineering), or perhaps a life skill (cooking, personal management, communications)—the merit badge counselor, plays a vital role in stirring a young man's curiosity about that particular topic. By serving as a merit badge counselor, they offer their time, knowledge, and other resources so that Scouts can explore a topic of interest.

The Merit Badge Counselor's mission is to join fun with learning. They are both a teacher and mentor to the Scout as he works on a merit badge and learns by doing. By presenting opportunities for growth via engaging activities like designing a Web page (Computers), performing a wheelie (Snowboarding), or fabricating rope (Pioneering), they can pique a young man's interest in the merit badge subject. Just think: Their hands-on involvement could inspire a Scout to develop a lifelong hobby, pursue a particular career, or become an independent, self-supporting adult.

At the first meeting, the Scout and the merit badge counselor review and start working on the requirements. In some cases, the Scout may share with the merit badge counselor the work he has started or accomplished. The Merit Badge Counselor and the Scout work out a tentative schedule for completing the requirements. The number of meetings will depend on the difficulty of the requirements and the preparation and ability of the Scout.

The Counselor's duty is to be satisfied that each Scout that comes to them meets all the requirements for the merit badge they are coaching. They do this by helping Scouts overcome the different hurdles of the requirements and making them aware of the deeper aspects of the subject through their learning experience. They may tell about their own experiences to help positively reinforce the subject matter. However, the Counselor may not tack on new requirements or extra work. While they may guide and instruct a Scout on the subject matter, he must do the work himself.

As each requirement is completed, they will test the Scout individually, with his buddy present. Using the blue card, update this card as the Scout completes each requirement. When the Scout has completed all the requirements, the Counselor signs off on the blue card and the Scout returns the completed card to his unit leader.

11 Insider Tips for Eagle-Required Merit Badges

In the world of Boy Scouts, merit badges can be adventures, but they also direct a course of study. Earn the first aid merit badge, for example, and you'll master every aspect of basic injury care, from the scratches and bruises of city life to potentially life-threatening gashes, breaks and wounds that can happen in the outback. That being said, some badges that are required for Eagle Scouts are considerably more fun to do than others. Some can be done in a matter of days, while others take three months, minimum. And some are best done at Boy Scout camp, not at home.

So here are insider tips on how to get those 12 Eagle-required badges done in a timely fashion, without driving either the Eagle applicant or his parents crazy.

1. **Pace the Work:** Although civics, life skills and wilderness survival comprise the knowledge base every Eagle should have, some of the Eagle-required merit badges are pretty dry affairs. Important, yes, but not necessarily thrilling fare. So encourage your Scout to do two or three per year - not 12 at once - and accomplish as many as possible at Scout camp.
2. **Get the OK:** As for any merit badge, make sure your scout signs up with a merit badge counselor and gets his "blue card" - the paperwork required for every merit badge - launched before any requirement work commences. Most troops will not give retroactive credit for merit badge work.
3. **Do It As a Troop:** Some troops hold badge-o-ramas or other daylong, troop events where scouts can work on advancement projects and get one or two Eagle badges started. This is particularly helpful for badges that don't really fit the 7-day Scout camp format, such as Personal Management, Family Life and some of the Citizen in the (Fill in the Blank) badges.
4. **Emergency Preparedness or Lifesaving:** Only one of these badges is required, but many teens find the material so fascinating and exciting, they end up completing both. Emergency preparedness is a great badge to complete at Boy Scout camp. If your child is a lifeguard, he may find lifesaving the no-brainer option. Either way, this is one of those badges that kids and parents love.
5. **Environmental Science:** Do. It. At. Scout. Camp. Seriously. The material is vastly more interesting in the wilderness, and the environmental observation exercises are tedious beyond belief when the only "wild animals" back home consist of ants and mosquitoes.
6. **Swimming, Hiking or Cycling:** Only one of these badges is required. If your child is a member of a swim team or goes to Scout Camp, swimming is the easiest, most straightforward choice. The hiking badge is a good option for non-swimming, nature-loving kids who enjoy serious, long-distance hikes. Don't even

Troop 902 – Merit Badge Information

consider the cycling badge unless your child is a die-hard, century-riding cyclist whose idea of fun is riding 20-30 miles every weekend.

7. **Camping:** Like the Emergency Preparedness badge, this one is beloved by nearly every Scout. Its lessons are so central to everything in Scouting; chances are that most of the requirements will be finished over the years simply as a matter of course. But like every Scout merit badge, it is critical that your child get signed up with a merit badge counselor before any requirement work commences, or it will not count.
8. **First Aid:** This Eagle-required badge is actually one of the more interesting, action-packed badges for teens, but it's not a good one for solo work. It's best done at Scout camp or as an organized troop activity.
9. **Citizenship in the Community/Nation/World:** While the material involved in these three local, federal and global civics badges is valuable, attempting to do all three at once is a recipe for disastrous levels of boredom. The better option is to get the community and/or nation badges started during a troop event or Scout camp and finish on one's own. The Citizenship in the World badge can be done entirely on one's own, with guidance from a badge counselor.
10. **Communications:** Much of the work of this badge can be done on one's own, with guidance from a badge counselor, but one component - the speech - requires an audience, which makes it a good option for a badge-o-rama event.
11. **Personal Fitness, Personal Management & Family Life:** All three of these "personal" badges are straight forward, important learning experiences that can be done entirely on one's own. Teens who are involved in high school athletics, in particular, will find personal fitness a breeze. Where it gets tricky is that each badge requires 3 months of activities and record-keeping to track all that exercise, budgeting and/or household chores. Teens typically have no quibble with the tasks; it's the tracking that gets them and failure to stay on top of the record-keeping means having to start over. Laying out a good tracking system - an Excel spreadsheet, for example - is critical. Once in record-keeping mode, your teen may find it easier to do all three badges at once.