



BECOME A TROOP 161 MERIT BADGE COUNSELOR

Do you qualify to be a merit badge counselor? You must have a common knowledge of the subject, and be able to teach the requirements as outlined in the merit badge booklet.

Friends and relatives with a specialty can also sign up as a merit badge counselor. You would need to complete an Adult Application, a free ½ hour online course on Youth Protection and the counselor form. No fee is required.

Meritbadge.com lists all the merit badges and if you click on one it will list out the requirements.

Return completed forms to either the Advancement Chair or the Scoutmaster.

How to fill out a Merit Badge blue card

The Scout must first obtain a Merit Badge Blue Card from the Scoutmaster and complete the blue card as described below.

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

APPLICATION FOR MERIT BADGE

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____
 is a registered Boy Scout Varsity Scout Explorer of _____ Troop, team, post, etc. No. _____
 District _____
 Council _____
 and is qualified to begin working for merit badge noted on the reverse side.

Date _____ Signature of unit leader _____
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The Scout fills out in ink the section of the blue card with "Application For Merit Badge" on the front with his name and full address. Our district is Benjamin Tallmudge and our council is Suffolk County.

The Scoutmaster puts the date of the request of the blue card and signs at the bottom of the "Application For Merit Badge".

On the reverse side of the blue card the Scout fills out in ink his name, Merit Badge and Unit info only.

The Merit Badge Counselor will complete the rest of the card as the Scout works on and completes the merit badge.

The applicant has personally appeared before me and demonstrated to my satisfaction that he has met all requirements for the (please print)

Merit badge _____
 Name of counselor _____
 Address of counselor _____
 City _____ ZIP code _____
 Telephone number of counselor _____
 Signature of counselor _____ Date _____
 Checked and recorded _____
 Date _____ Initials _____
 Certificate and badge presented _____ Date _____

Applicant will turn in this portion to his unit leader for record posting.

APPLICANT'S RECORD

Name _____
 Has given me his completed application for the _____
 Merit badge _____
 Completed on _____ Date _____ by _____
 Signature of counselor _____
 Signature of unit leader _____

COUNSELOR'S RECORD

Applicant _____
 Troop Team Post
 Unit number _____
 Merit badge _____
 Date completed _____
 Remarks _____

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

It is suggested that the counselor keep this record for at least 1 year in case any question is raised later in regard to this award.

Scouts should avoid, if possible, having their parent as the merit badge counselor.

Never meet with a Scout alone. The Scout must always have a buddy such as another Scout, a parent or a friend.

At the first meeting, the Scout turns over the blue card to the Counselor to keep track of until the Merit Badge is completed.

When the final requirement of the Merit Badge is completed, the Counselor then fills in all the rest of the blanks on the blue card. The date *must agree* on all three parts of the blue card and is the date the Merit Badge is earned.

The Counselor keeps the last third of the blue card, Counselor's Record, and gives back parts B and C to the Scout who will then turn it in to John, Scoutmaster or Theresa, Advancement Chair who will record it in the Troop's records, order the Merit Badge, and submit one third of the blue card to Council for their records. It is the Scout's responsibility to make sure the blue card is completed and submitted. *No merit badges will be awarded without a completed blue card.*

The Scout receives his third of the blue card and the Merit Badge at the Troop's Court of Honor.