

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 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.

Front

APPLICATION FOR MERIT BADGE

Name _____
Address _____
City _____
Is a registered _____
☐ Boy Scout ☐ Varsity Scout ☐ Venturer
of _____ Troop, team, crew, ship No. _____
District _____
Council _____

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

Date _____ Signature of unit leader _____

Back

COUNSELOR'S RECORD

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

Applicant _____
Name of Counselor _____
Address of Counselor _____
City _____ ZIP Code _____
Telephone number of Counselor _____
Signature of counselor _____ Date _____
Checked and recorded _____
Date _____
Certificate and badge presented _____

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.

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 _____ by _____
Signature of Counselor _____
Signature of unit leader _____

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

STEP ONE

A few merit badges have certain 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 contacts the counselor and arranges to meet them. Meetings may happen at the counselors 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

when completed

STEP THREE

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

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. Partial work has 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. Nor does unit leadership have the authority to retract approval, or take the badge away. Even 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.

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

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

The **APPLICANTS RECORD** panel is filled out and the counselor signs it.

The Scout takes the blue card troop

STEP FOUR

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.

COUNSELORS RECORD

Name: John Scout
Troop: 24
Merit Badge: Camping
Date Completed: 1/30/13
Remarks:

Center Panel

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

Applicant: John Scout
Name of Counselor: Dr. Julius Hibbert
Address of Counselor: 630 Main Street
City: Shelbyville ZIP Code: 22222
Telephone number of Counselor: 555-232-1212
Signature of counselor: Dr. Julius Hibbert Date: 1/30/13

Checked and recorded: 2/12/13
Certificate and badge presented: 2/28/13

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

APPLICANT'S RECORD

Name: John Scout
has given me his completed application for the Camping Merit Badge
Completed on 1/30/13 by Dr. Julius Hibbert
Signature of Counselor: Dr. Julius Hibbert
Signature of unit leader: N Flanders

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

The **APPLICANTS 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

