

TROOP 1776 -- SCOUT NOTEBOOK

RANK PROGRESSION, MERIT BADGE RECORDS, and SERVICE HOURS

The Merit Badge program contains over 100 merit badge subjects that a scout can choose to earn. There are several merit badges that are required for advancement to the rank of **STAR**, **LIFE**, and **EAGLE** these are fully explained within the **BSA SCOUT HANDBOOK**.

A scout can work on merit badges at any time during his scouting career; he does not have to be at any particular rank to work on anyone merit badge. However, scouts that are not at the rank of **FIRST CLASS** may find that their time would be best spent with skill advancement so as to satisfy the requirements of rank advancement.

The basic process for the earning of a merit badge is outlined as follows:

1. The scout selects a merit badge that he wishes to earn.
2. He may then review the requirements with another scout, an adult leader, or a merit badge counselor so that the scout understands what is basically required.
3. The scout then requests an APPLICATION FOR MERIT BADGE, BSA form 4124A from the Scoutmaster, this form is commonly referred to as a 'blue card'. The form is made up as a three section card with information contained on both the front and back of each section (see page 3).

The first section is the 'Application for Merit Badge'. The scout should complete the front side, i.e. NAME, ADDRESS, TROOP, DISTRICT, and COUNCIL. The scout should then have the form signed and dated by the SCOUTMASTER.

The second or middle section of the form is the 'Applicants Record'. This section is completed by the Merit Badge Counselor as work progresses.

The third section is the 'Counselor's Record' and it is completed after all of the requirements are satisfied and will be retained by the counselor.

4. The scout will then obtain a copy of the Merit Badge Pamphlet, which describes the requirements as well as the contents of the particular merit badge. The pamphlet can be obtained from the Troop Library or a personal copy can be purchased from a Scouting distributor.

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5. The scout should then select and contact a merit badge counselor recommended by the Scoutmaster. Generally, a scout will meet with the counselor at a mutually agreeable time and place. The counselor will review the requirements of the merit badge, answer preliminary questions, and set up a schedule for the scout to follow so as to satisfy each requirement.

TROOP 1776 has determined that if a scout has selected a merit badge that is required for advancement to the RANK or EAGLE, he should not select as a merit badge counselor, his own father, mother or any relative. The SCOUTMASTER must be consulted so as to obtain another counselor for the scout.

The counselor should complete the top half of the backside of the APPLICATION FOR MERIT BADGE but should not sign the form as being complete.

6. The scout would then work on his requirements as directed by pamphlet, meet with the counselor to confirm completion or obtain additional information or instructions. As each requirement is completed the counselor should complete the 'requirements section' of the 'Applicant's Record'.
7. When the scout has completed all of the requirements and then counselor has completed both sides of the 'Applicant's Record', signed the back of the first section and completed the 'COUNSELOR'S RECORD' the form is returned to the SCOUTMASTER. He will then sign the 'APPLICANTS RECORD', The SCOUTMASTER will then separate the form into three parts as described in paragraph 2. The form sections are then distributed as follows:

Section 1 APPLICATION FOR MERIT BADGE

is retained by the SCOUTMASTER for record keeping and the information is also sent to the Troop Advancement Chairman who will update the scout's individual advancement records and arrange to award the actual merit badge to the scout at the next Court of Awards.

Section 2 APPLICANT'S RECORD.

is returned to the scout for his record and 'SAFEKEEPING', The scout should be aware that 'blue card' is an official record of his completion of the merit badge and he should retain it in a safe place; This portion of the Application For MERIT BADGE is also used to verify requirements at a SCOUTMASTER'S CONFERENCE for RANK ADVANCEMENT' sign-off.

Section 3 COUNSELOR'S RECORD,

is returned to the Merit Badge Counselor for his record keeping.

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SAMPLE OF FORM 4124A

“Blue Card”

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MERIT BADGE TRACKING RECORD

STAR

STAR MERIT BADGES: EARN A TOTAL OF SIX (6) INCLUDING FOUR (4) FROM THE REQUIRED LIST FOR EAGLE.

	DATE (*REQUIRED BADGES FOR EAGLE)	DATE (2 ADDITIONAL, ANY MERIT BADGE)
DATE BECAME A SCOUT:	1.	1.
TENDERFOOT DATE	2.	2.
2ND CLASS DATE	3.	6-HOUR SERVICE PROJECT
1ST CLASS DATE	4.	

STAR SCOUT

DATE: _____

LIFE

LIFE MERIT BADGES: EARN A TOTAL OF 11 INCLUDING SEVEN (7) FROM THE REQUIRED LIST FOR EAGLE (*RECORD THE FOUR MERIT BADGES EARNED FOR STAR ALSO*).

RECORD (3 MORE REQ. PLUS THE 4 REQ. BADGES EARNED FOR STAR) 2 ADDITIONAL, ANY MERIT BADGE

DATE (REQ. MERIT BADGES FOR EAGLE) DATE (REQ. MERIT BADGES FOR EAGLE) DATE (RECORD 2 FOR STAR & 2 ADDITIONAL)

1.	5.	1.
2.	6.	2.
3.	7.	3.
4.		4.

6-HOUR SERVICE PROJECT

LIFE SCOUT

DATE: _____

EAGLE

REQUIREMENT 3. EARN A TOTAL OF 21 MERIT BADGES (*REQUIRED MERIT BADGES ARE LISTED. LIST THE MONTH, DAY AND YEAR EACH MERIT BADGE WAS EARNED. (RECORD EVERY MERIT BADGE EARNED)*).

MERIT BADGE	DATE EARNED	UNIT No.	MERIT BADGE	DATE EARNED	UNIT No.	MERIT BADGE	DATE EARNED	UNIT No.
1. CAMPING			8. FIRST AID			15.		
2. CITIZENSHIP IN THE COMMUNITY			9. PERSONAL FITNESS			16.		
3. CITIZENSHIP IN THE NATION			10. PERSONAL MANAGEMENT			17.		
4. CITIZENSHIP IN THE WORLD			11. LIFESAVING OR EMERGENCY PRERAREDNESS			18.		
5. COMMUNICATIONS			12. SWIMMING OR HIKING OR CYCLING			19.		
6. ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE			13.			20.		
7. FAMILY LIFE			14.			21.		

Cross out badges not earned. If a crossed out badge was earned, it may be reentered in 12 through 21.

Four of these required merit badges were earned for the Star Scout Award and three more for the Life Scout Award.

All merit badges earned beyond the 21 for Eagle Scout should be entered on the *Eagle Palms tracking record*