



Eagle Requirement 3: Merit Badges

Dan Beard Council Advancement Committee

Requirement 3. Earn a total of 21 merit badges (required badges are listed). List the month, day, and year the merit badge was earned. Also include the troop number where earned.

Scout Tasks:

- 1. Complete the specified and optional merit badges.*
- 2. List your merit badges on your original Eagle application.*
- 3. Use the required mm/dd/yy format on all dates on the Eagle Application.*
- 4. List Unit number that you belonged to at the time you earned the merit badges, even if is the same for all badges.*
- 5. For badge # 6 (Emergency Preparedness or Life Saving) and for # 9 (Cycling, Hiking or Swimming), carefully cross out the names of the badges NOT claimed in this part of the application.*
- 6. Be prepared to verify you have earned all merit badges.*
- 7. Verify all were earned after your joining date.*

A statement that “the scout must earn all specified merit badges plus optional merit badges to total at least 21” could appear to be obvious and a waste of space. But many problems have occurred dealing with merit badges, so it is important to outline them.

- Several required merit badges have an extended time requirement for completion. Finishing these merit badges should not be delayed as any problem with finishing them before the 18th birthday could prevent the scout from earning the Eagle Rank.
- Merit badges must be approved by a currently registered merit badge counselor. Each district has the responsibility to recruit, train, annually register all counselors, and publish the list of approved counselors. It is the unit’s responsibility to ensure that scouts use only approved counselors. Use of a non-registered “counselor” could result in a merit badge being declared invalid.
- Merit badges and ranks can be earned ONLY when a scout is registered. Many instances have been found when a scout allowed his registration to lapse, but kept working on advancement. In other cases, units failed to submit the initial application for months, but the scout was working on rank advancement. Both problems could prevent a scout from achieving Eagle Rank.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How does the applicant indicate which badge was earned when the block on the application shows more than one badge?

As stated on the bottom of the application, cross out badges not earned. Do NOT circle the badge that was earned.

What if the applicant earned more than one merit badge printed in one of the blocks?

Cross out all but one that was earned that is to be counted as a “required” badge. If one or more of the badges that were crossed out were earned, it/they may be reentered as one of the non-required badges.

What date is listed when a merit badge was earned?

The official date is the date the counselor signed the blue card and **not** the date the merit badge was presented at a Court of Honor.

What documents are used to determine if a merit badge was earned?

The primary document for validation is the candidate's blue card. As stated in BSA publications, the blue cards are valuable documents and should be kept in a safe and secure location.

Will the merit badge record be verified?

YES! When the Unit Leader and Unit Committee Chair sign the back of the application, one of the areas they are approving is the accuracy of the merit badges earned and their completion dates. Council will verify these records before approving the application as ready for a Board of Review.

How is earning a merit badge verified?

There are a number of methods to verify this information, including use of:

- Council advancement records.
- Unit records of the blue cards maintained by the troop's Advancement Chair.
- Unit's copy of the official Advancement Report.
- District's copy of the Advancement Report.
- The merit badge counselor's copy of the blue card for the merit badge or signed letter from the counselor verifying completion and date.
- The scout's copy of the blue card.