

Merit Badges and Social Distancing

- **What has changed, what has not?**
- **Picking a Merit Badge.**
- **Finding a Counselor.**
- **Getting started.**
- **Merit Badge worksheets.**
- **Tracking Progress.**
- **Resources.**

What has changed, what has not?

- **Social distancing/ other Covid-19 restrictions may temporarily preclude completion of some requirements.**
- **Face to face meetings replaced with online meetings.**
- **Merit Badge requirements have not changed.**
- **Youth Protection Guidelines apply to electronic communications.**
- **Mr. Palmer pulled the Troop through the 1918 Pandemic and he will do it again!**

YPT

- **No one-on-one communication between adults and scouts.**
- **Zoom or similar meetings with a single adult leader require a parent or guardian present.**
 - **Appear at opening of session.**
 - **Give consent and agree to remain in close enough proximity to monitor.**
- **Emails or text messages should copy a parent or guardian.**
 - **If using parents' or family email account/phone, copy at least 2 Troop adults.**
- **Face to face meetings require at least 2 adults.**



Picking a Merit Badge

- **BSA “at-home” suggested merit badges.**
- **What interests you?**
- **Should I do a Summer Camp Merit Badge?**
- **What about Eagle Merit Badges?**
- **Where do I find the most current requirements?**

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Merit Badge Requirements



American Business

Current | **Previous**




American Cultures

Current



American Heritage

Current | **Previous**




American Labor

Current | **Previous**




Animal Science



Animation



Archaeology



Archery

How do I find a Counselor?

- Troop has developed a list of Counselors for many Merit Badges.
- If you have interest in a Merit Badge not on the list, the Troop will seek to find a Counselor for you.

How do I start?

- Read the *current* requirements carefully. (Click link)
- Make note of any requirements you do not fully understand, believe are unduly difficult, believe you cannot accomplish under current restrictions, etc.
- Contact your Counselor
 - Discuss any requirements you noted in your review.
 - Discuss any issues you may have.
 - Set up a plan/schedule.



Can I, or should I, use a *Merit Badge Worksheet*?

- The BSA neither supports nor prohibits the use of Merit Badge Worksheets.
- Merit Badge Worksheets do not modify or replace any Merit Badge requirements.
 - *Discuss* means discuss, *demonstrate* means demonstrate, etc.
- Ask your Counselor.
- If your Counselor approves or encourages use of Merit Badge worksheets, use them properly.
 - Notes to self to aid your discussion, demonstration, etc.

Tracking your Progress

- Work in Progress, look for announcements on the Webpage or at our on-line Troop Meetings.
- Formal Blue Cards may have to wait until in person meetings resume.
- Talk with your Counselor.
- Be proactive, the adults are old and will not remember who worked on what.

Resources

Troop Website and On-Line Meetings

Look for Merit Badge Classes offered by the Troop

Scout USA Policy on Merit Badges and Social Distancing

<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2020/03/20/merit-badges-for-social-distancing/>

Official Merit Badge Page

<https://www.scouting.org/programs/scouts-bsa/advancement-and-awards/merit-badges/>

Unofficial Merit Badge Worksheets

<http://usscouts.org/mb/worksheets/list.asp>