

- Several of the questions below talk about a "merit badge counselor." For each merit badge you plan to work on, you must consult with a counselor who is an adult volunteer with expertise in the area of interest. For example, if you want to earn the Architecture merit badge, you must hook up with a real architect willing to counsel the badge and sign off on your blue card.
- The Boy Scout organization has a library of pamphlets, one for each merit badge. You can buy them from the online Scout catalog store. Each pamphlet starts off with a list of requirements, but you can also see the requirements on the website named above. However, each pamphlet also contains a wealth of information about that merit badge's subject. Many times the pamphlet will contain all the information you will need to earn the badge.
- A completion is when the counselor signs the blue card and gives it to the Scoutmaster. Cloth badges are handed out during a Court of Honor award ceremony in March, June, September, and December. The 18 required badges are embroidered with a silver edge, and the others have a green edge. The way to display them is to buy a sash and sew them on.
- There are three ways to earn a merit badge: easy, medium, and hard. There's a chart with details about easy-medium-hard on the last page of this document, but all three ways to earn involve these 5 steps:
 1. **DECIDE:** Decide which badge you want to earn. For example, Music. Review the requirements -- Music has five.
 2. **BLUE CARD:** Ask the Scoutmaster to sign and give you a blue card.
 3. **COUNSELOR:** Find a registered counselor for the badge and arrange to get together.
 4. **SHOW:** Show the counselor that you can pass all the requirements. He or she will sign the blue card as "complete."
 5. **COMPLETION:** Give the completed signed blue card back to the Scoutmaster. Your chart on the troop website will be updated, and you'll receive the cloth merit badge at the next Court of Honor.

1. What are merit badges? (choose one)
 - A merit badge is earned when a Scout works on a service project, such as collecting food for needy families.
 - A merit badge is earned when a Scout does something heroic, such as saving a drowning person.
 - A merit badge is an award earned by a Scout based on completing activities within some area of study, such as Robotics.

2. How many merit badges do you have to earn to reach Tenderfoot rank? (choose one)
 - You need to earn 4 merit badges to reach Tenderfoot rank.
 - No merit badges are needed to reach Tenderfoot rank, but you have to pass other requirements.

3. How many merit badges do you have to earn to reach Star rank? (choose one)
 - No merit badges are needed to reach Star rank, but you have to pass other requirements.
 - You need to earn 6 merit badges to reach Star rank, but they can be any 6.
 - You need to earn 6 merit badges to reach Star rank, and 4 must come from the "Required" list.

4. Of the 130 or so merit badges that exist, how many are designated as "Required?" For example, "First Aid" is required because we want every Scout to know lots of first aid. (choose one)
 - 0 merit badges are required. They're all optional.
 - 14 merit badges are required. The rest are all optional.
 - 18 merit badges are required. The rest are all optional.

5. **SuperScout jeopardy-style question:** The answer is "14 required merit badges." What is the question?

6. The troop needs a way to track which Scout earned which merit badges, and so we use blue cards, one card per Scout per badge. How do you go about getting a blue card in order to get started? (Hint: see the chart on the last page of this document.)

7. Scout rules specify that you must work with a certified adult merit badge counselor. They will verify that you know your stuff and will sign off on your blue card. How do you find an adult counselor to work with? (Hint: see the chart on the last page of this document.)

Easy way: _____

Medium way: _____

Hard way: _____

8. On a few formal occasions, you'll want to display all the cloth merit badges you have earned. How to do it?

EASY: Attend a week of Boy Scout summer camp	MEDIUM: Earn one of the merit badges handled by Boy Scout Troop 146	HARD: Select an unusual merit badge, such as Dentistry
1. DECIDE: The camp website will post a list of merit badges being offered. Make your selections and click OK.	1. DECIDE: The troop website lists about 30 merit badges. Make a selection. http://www.troop146.org/scout-portal/advancement-resources/ Click on "Troop 146 Merit Badge Counselors"	1. DECIDE: Here's a good website that lists all 130+ merit badges and their requirements: http://usscouts.org/usscouts/meritbadges.asp
2. BLUE CARD: When you arrive at the camp, the Scoutmaster will hand you one blue card for each merit badge you signed up for.	2. BLUE CARD: Ask the Scoutmaster to sign and give you a blue card.	2. BLUE CARD: Ask the Scoutmaster to sign and give you a blue card.
3. COUNSELOR: Show up at the designated location where a counselor will be waiting for you. Give him the blue card.	3. COUNSELOR: The Troop 146 website names the counselor for each badge. Contact them and arrange to get together.	3. COUNSELOR: The Scoutmaster will access a private database and give you 4 or 5 names and contact information. Call around until you find a counselor willing to work with you. Arrange to get together. He may insist that you come with a buddy.
4. SHOW: Show the counselor that you can pass all the requirements. Some of the requirements must be done at home before you arrive at camp. They will sign the blue card as "complete" (or maybe as "partial").	4. SHOW: Show the counselor that you can pass all the requirements. They will sign the blue card as "complete."	4. SHOW: Show the counselor that you can pass all the requirements. They will sign the blue card as "complete."
5. COMPLETION: At the end of the camp week, the Scoutmaster will collect blue cards from all the counselors. You'll receive the cloth merit badges you earned at the next Court of Honor.	5. COMPLETION: Give the completed blue card back to the Scoutmaster. You'll receive the cloth merit badge at the next Court of Honor.	5. COMPLETION: Give the completed blue card back to the Scoutmaster. You'll receive the cloth merit badge at the next Court of Honor.