

## Troop 888 Earning Merit Badges

Merit Badges are an important and fun part of Scouting. They are required for advancement for all ranks above 1<sup>st</sup> Class but a scout of any rank can earn a merit badge at any time.... so don't wait! Each badge earned is a step toward Eagle.

There are several ways to earn merit badges; three of them are described here.

### Earning Merit Badges Independently

- You can always choose the merit badge you want to earn. You might ask other scouts or adult leaders for suggestions or for information about different badges. Or you can find out more at: <http://www.scouting.org/meritbadges.aspx>.
- Once you have decided on a badge you need to talk with the Scoutmaster about your choice. He will sign a Blue Card for you and he may also recommend a merit badge counselor. You will legibly fill out your name and personal information on the front of the Blue Card and the name of the merit badge on the back (see image of Blue Card below).
- You may consult with Ms. Mathues ([kellimathues@yahoo.com](mailto:kellimathues@yahoo.com)) who is the troop merit badge coordinator for the troop. She can help you find a merit badge counselor or you can review a list of troop counselors for the merit badge of your choice by clicking on "Merit Badge Counselor List" on the Advancement page of the troop website.
- After you have your Blue Card, meet with your merit badge counselor and plan a strategy to complete the requirements. You may want to meet with your counselor several times along the way (could be at troop meetings or before meetings).
- Once you have completed all of the Merit Badge requirements the counselor will sign your Blue Card. Finally the Scoutmaster will need to sign it again and you can then deliver it to the Advancement Chairperson. You should keep for your records the part of the Blue Card labeled for the Scout. This is a permanent record for you.
- You will receive your merit badge at the next Court of Honor. Congratulations!

### Earning Merit Badges at Summer Camp

- Before Summer Camp each year the troop will supply scouts with a list of merit badges that the camp offers. You can prioritize the badges you would most like earn and provide the list to the Adult-in-Charge of summer camp. The troop will arrange for making reservations for your merit badge classes.
- The troop will provide signed blue cards for scouts going to summer camp. Each scout should fill out the necessary personal information on the blue card to present to the counselor at camp.
- At the end of camp the counselor will give you a Completion Report that shows all of the requirements for the Merit Badge that you completed. If you completed all of the requirements your counselor should also sign your Blue Card.
- Sometimes not all of the requirements get completed at Summer Camp and you will need to finish them with a merit badge counselor as if you worked on it independently (see above).

