

## Reference LINKS

<http://www.meritbadge.org>

<http://www.usscouts.org>

<http://www.wikipedia.org>

## Other Notes

Optional worksheets can help Scouts organize notes, listen actively, and document their work.

Some Merit Badges Require Prior Approval before starting certain requirements. Most do not.

A Scout is expected to meet the requirements exactly as stated – no more and no less.

Scouts starting a merit badge must use the current Boy Scout Requirements and can continue to use those requirements even if new requirements are published. A Scout may then elect to complete the full set of new requirements or the full set of old requirements. A Scout cannot pick and choose from both sets. If he chooses to use the new requirements, he can; of course, use the work he has done on any of the old requirements, if the requirement is unchanged, or only had editorial changes which don't actually change the actual requirement.

## TROOP 17 SPECIFIC

- Scouts begin Merit Badge work after achieving 1st Class Rank.
- Limit of three (3) Eagle Required Merit Badges which the counselor is Troop 17 related.
- Troop 17 maintains a library of pamphlets. If there is a newer revision/requirements than what is on file, or there is limited copies, Scouts are encouraged to purchase the new pamphlet and donate it to the Troop when finished. That's how the library was built.
- Merit badge work should be completed outside of the weekly Troop meeting. Boys are encouraged to plan accordingly and use time management to complete their work. There may be occasions when merit badge work is an activity at the weekly Troop meeting.
- Ask questions. Ask for help. Your Scoutmaster and Assistants are there to help you on your journey to EAGLE.

# Boy Scouts of America

## TROOP 17

### Quick Guide to Merit Badges



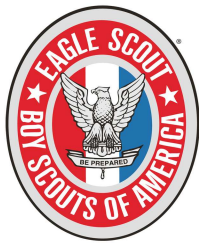
**Ken Fineran – Scoutmaster**  
**Vincent Nascone – ASM – Merit Badges**

<http://www.troop17shorthills.com>

## MERIT BADGES

**Merit Badges** are the second main area of the Boy Scout advancement program. Unlike ranks, there is a degree of choice in the merit badge program. A sub-group of merit badges are known as Eagle required merit badges. To earn Eagle Scout, most of these badges must be earned although some are "either/or" badges. The remainder of the badges help with earning ranks as well as Eagle Palms after the Eagle Scout award has been earned.

Troop 17 Boy Scouts may work on merit badges from the time they achieve 1<sup>st</sup> Class Rank until they turn 18 years old. There is no time limit for completion of merit badges other than age 18.



## INTRODUCTION

You can learn about sports, crafts, science, trades, business, and future careers as you earn merit badges. There are more than 100 merit badges. Troop 17 Boy Scouts may earn any merit badge after achieving rank of 1<sup>st</sup> Class Scout.

**Pick a Subject.** Talk to your Scoutmaster or Assisitant Scoutmaster about your interests. Read the requirements of the merit badges you think might interest you. Pick one to earn. Your Leader will give you the name of a person from a list of Merit Badge Counselors. These counselors have special knowledge in their merit badge subjects and are interested in helping you.

**Merit Badge application.** Get a *signed* Blue Card from your Leader.

**Scout Buddy System.** *You must have another person with you at each meeting with the merit badge counselor.* This person can be another Scout, your parents or guardian, a brother or sister, a relative, or a friend.

**Call the Counselor.** Get in touch with the merit badge counselor and tell him or her that you want to earn the merit badge. The counselor may ask you to come and see him so he can explain what he expects and start helping you meet the requirements.

When you know what is expected, start to learn and do the things required. Ask your counselor to help you learn the things you need to know or do. You should read the merit badge pamphlet on the subject.

**Show Your Stuff.** When you are ready, call the counselor again to make an appointment to meet the requirements. When you go take along the things you have made to meet the requirements. If they are too big to move, take pictures or have an adult tell in writing what you have done. The counselor may ask you to do each requirement to make sure that you know your stuff and have done or can do the things required.

**Get the Badge.** When the counselor is satisfied that you have met each requirement, he or she will sign your application. Give the signed application to your Scoutmaster so that your merit badge can be recorded and then awarded to you.

**Requirements.** You are expected to meet the requirements as they are stated -- no more and no less. You are expected to do exactly what is stated in the requirements. If it says "show or demonstrate," that is what you must do. Just telling about it isn't enough. The same thing holds true for such words as "make," "list," "in the field," and "collect," "identify," and "label."

