



# Troop 82 Guide to Merit Badges





# HP Troop 82 – Merit Badge

## Overview

The following information is provided for Scouts and Parents to gain a clearer understanding of the process to earn Merit Badges for advancement with the ultimate goal of becoming an Eagle Scout.

What are Merit Badges all about, an introduction.

- <http://www.scouting.org/meritbadges.aspx>

What are the Merit Badges I need to earn for Eagle?

- [http://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Eagle\\_Scout\\_rank](http://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Eagle_Scout_rank)





## Plan for Your Son's Success

# 21 merit badges required for Eagle

- 13 “Eagle Required” Merit Badges – see link on preceding page
  - 12 taught at Troop 82 (all but swimming)
  - 10 taught at TRJ Summer Camp
    - Citizenship in the Community, Family Life and Personal Management not available – take at Troop 82 or outside
    - Camp Alexander and other camps vary in offerings
    - All Eagle reqd badges must be earned at T82 or at a BSA provider – no independent study allowed per troop policy
- 8 optional Merit Badges
  - Scout can pick to align with their interests
  - Can earn through Troop 82, other BSA providers or outside
  - List of locations/providers for merit badges posted at <http://hptroop82.org/filesandresources.html>
  - Mix of Eagle reqd and optional badges needed for each rank advancement – See Scout handbook



## A Strategy for Troop 82 Scouts

WHICH badges to pursue WHERE and WHEN:

- Summer Camp
  - Must go at least once and twice is best
  - Complete Swimming MB at Summer Camp, must attend BSA camp once and complete at least 4 eagle required badges or attend camp twice and complete at least 7 eagle required badges
- Troop 82
  - Complete one Eagle reqd badge fall, winter and spring starting spring of sixth grade year and earn 7 Eagle reqd by the end of 8<sup>th</sup> grade and 10 by end of freshman year
  - Camping MB signed off after 20 nights camping for Life scouts provided they have met other requirements
  - Troop 82 teaches Wilderness Survival and Orienteering badges on campouts
  - Other badges offered by parents and events

21 merit badges + Eagle Project = Eagle Scout



## Realize all Merit Badges are not Created Equal

- Always read the requirements in advance as difficulty varies widely
- Troop 82 restricts Eagle reqd class enrollment based on rank as some badges are far more difficult than others
  - Click “Classes offered” at <http://hptroop82.org/filesandresources.html>
- Two independent difficulty ratings for all badges with key need-to-know information before you start
  - [http://bsaprepared.com/BSA\\_PREPARED/MB\\_Difficulty.html](http://bsaprepared.com/BSA_PREPARED/MB_Difficulty.html)
  - [http://usscouts.org/advance/docs/Mr\\_DsReview.pdf](http://usscouts.org/advance/docs/Mr_DsReview.pdf)
- Use TroopMaster or your son’s handbook to understand mix of Eagle required and optional badges needed for advancement for each rank and create a written plan. An example is provided on next slide.







## 3 Ways to Earn Merit Badges

- ◆ **Monday Night Troop Meetings** – Eagle required Merit Badges are taught by certified parent volunteers
- ◆ **Official Boy Scout Summer Camp, Jamboree or other advancement gathering** such as Memorial Day's *Carry the Load* volunteer opportunity
- ◆ **Outside Merit Badges** – On your own, with a group, coach or instructor
  - More details/list of providers later in the presentation



# 1. Monday Night Merit Badge Classes

- ◆ The troop will teach Eagle required Merit Badge classes for First Class Scouts and above, for 5 to 6 weeks on Monday Nights in the Fall, Winter and Spring.
- ◆ Troop 82 is adding a Winter session in 2017 to provide more opportunities for scouts to complete badges since the Scout Museum is relocating and Perot has dramatically reduced their offerings.
- ◆ For a list of which Eagle required badges are offered in the specific Fall, Winter and spring sessions, click “Classes offered” at <http://hptroop82.org/filesandresources.html>
- ◆ First Class scouts are eligible for many badges but Cooking and Personal Management are restricted to Life scouts.
- ◆ A sign up sheet is passed out to all scouts 3 weeks before the class, asking them for their top 3 choices for Eagle Required badges they have not yet completed.





## A little more about Monday Night Merit Badges

- ◆ Regular Scout meetings start at 7:15 PM. Merit Badge Classes are from 7:45 PM – 8:15 PM in the assigned classrooms. Scouts are then dismissed back down to the main Scout Room for meeting announcements and closing. Not all scouts will make all classes and full attendance is not part of completing the badge however we strongly encourage scouts to make all the classes.
- ◆ Scouts will be provided a Merit Badge Booklet (**requires \$5 for a deposit**) and the badge worksheet. It is expected the scouts keep up with their worksheet weekly ahead of class BUT class time will be given to discuss the topics and time to fill in parts of it. The purpose of the class is to teach at a high level the material and facilitate discussions with the scouts. In essence this is a guided book report with scout participation in certain requirements.
- ◆ Some badges have outside requirements or a 13 week activity tracking chart. What this means is that **the scout will not get the badge in the 6 weeks of Monday night classes** and they will have to follow up with their Merit Badge instructor for completion or they can always come to the MB Desk for final signoff. At the end of the 5 weeks, we will take the attendance/tracking log and upload all the information to TroopMaster for either full or partial completion of the badge.
- ◆ The most important thing for all to remember is that the worksheet is like their scout handbook, **NEVER lose it** as this tracks all your progress. Bring the worksheet and booklet to every class.

## 2. Summer Camp

- ◆ For those Scouts choosing to attend Summer Camp in June there are numerous merit badges offered and taught by BSA-trained staffers. Typically the Scout will choose 4 – 5 merit badges for the week.
- ◆ Troop 82 recommends pursuing Eagle required badges at camp. Not all Eagle badges are taught at camp.
- ◆ Completed or partially completed merit badges will be loaded into TroopMaster in August of each year.
- ◆ It is normal for a Partial Merit Badge to be awarded if all requirements not met at camp – see next page





## My Son has a Partially Completed Merit Badge

Happens frequently, whether it is a partial completion from Monday nights or summer camp.

1. Print out requirements for badge.
2. Go to TroopMaster and print the completed requirements.
3. Bring documentation to show how the scout completed the requirements (including photos on his phone).

No partial listed in TroopMaster? Bring your completed worksheet to your ASM or Merit Badge Counselor for sign off or further coaching.





### 3. Outside Merit Badges

Here the scout chooses badges of strong interest to him.

There are 2 ways to earn these badges.

**1. Attend a class from a BSA organization or individual.**

Obtain a Blue Card (described in 2 pages) for participation from the merit badge desk. The card is required in ADVANCE of the merit badge class. You can e-mail [meritbadge@hptroop82.org](mailto:meritbadge@hptroop82.org) during the summer months.

**2. The scout may independently pursue under the guidance of a ‘counselor’ who mentors them through the badge. This counselor may be a parent or a professional with expertise in the merit badge subject matter.**

- Scouts are required to complete the Merit Badge Worksheet per the badge found at [www.meritbadge.org](http://www.meritbadge.org). and to use merit badge booklet.
- Badge is signed off at the MB desk, not by an ASM, although an ASM can sign off elements of the badge. After it is approved by the MB desk a yellow card will be issued and the badge will then be entered into TroopMaster.
- Obtain permission from your scout’s Asst Scoutmaster **before** beginning a badge that is Eagle required. Troop 82 strongly encourages Eagle merit badges be done on Monday nights, at summer camp or through an approved BSA provider but may make exceptions on a case-by-case basis

## Additional MB Opportunities – All Require Blue Cards

- ◆ Request Blue Card from [meritbadge@hptroop82.org](mailto:meritbadge@hptroop82.org)
- ◆ C10 Merit Badge University and Events <http://circleten.org/merit-badge-university-1>
- ◆ Perot Museum <https://www.perotmuseum.org/events-and-programs/children/scouting-adventures/boy-scouts/index.html>
- ◆ Texas Archery [clint@texasarchery.info](mailto:clint@texasarchery.info) <http://texasarchery.info/1155-2>
  - 3 hr class on a Saturday for minimum of 6 scouts
- ◆ Plano Conservancy --Electricity and Railroad MB
  - <http://www.planoconservancy.org/boy-scouts.html>
- ◆ Heard Museum –Environmental Science and Mammal MB
  - <http://www.heardmuseum.org/scouting#merit>
- ◆ Dallas Zoo – Occasionally offers MB classes
  - <http://www.dallaszoo.com/education/camps-classes/scout-badge-programs/>
- ◆ UP Police – Contact Officer Snellgrove for 1 hr Fingerprinting MB class
- ◆ Tera Byte Video Game Camp – Digital Technology and Game Design MB
  - <http://terabytegames.com/> One week camp but must register early
- ◆ For more information , click “Outside Offerings” at our Troop 82 website









# Other Information

To track the progress of your Scout for Advancement and Merit Badge Completions and Partial:

<http://hptroop82.org/>

Go to “Existing Scout Login”

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Questions? E-mail [meritbadge@hptroop82.org](mailto:meritbadge@hptroop82.org)

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# Check TroopMaster to Make Sure Merit Badges are in the System

- ◆ Login to TroopMaster using your assigned ID and Password
- ◆ Click Advancement Icon on top navigation
- ◆ Click your Scout's name
- ◆ Click Completed Merit Badges
- ◆ See popup window (example on the right) and verify that the MB is captured
- ◆ “R” checkbox indicates the MB has been “reported” to BSA; “P” indicates it has been “presented” to the scout

Completed Merit Badges		
<b>Star Badges</b>		
Basketry	06/20/14	R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Astronomy	06/20/14	R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Swimming*	06/20/14	R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Environmental Science*	06/20/14	R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Citizenship In World*	06/20/14	R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
First Aid*	04/13/15	R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Life Badges</b>		
Leatherwork	06/20/14	R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
American Heritage	06/30/14	R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Citizenship In Community*	10/11/15	R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Citizenship In Nation*	11/19/15	R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Camping*	11/19/15	R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Eagle Badges</b>		
Fingerprinting	10/06/14	R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Archery	11/22/14	R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Veterinary Medicine	04/13/15	R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Communication*	11/19/15	R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Personal Fitness*	11/19/15	R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Emergency Preparedness*	11/19/15	R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Personal Management*	04/11/16	R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Family Life*	04/11/16	R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cooking*	11/30/16	R <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> P <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>