BSA Merit Badges

Star: Earn six merit badges including four from the required list
Life: Earn five merit badges including three from the required list
Eagle: 21 Merit Badges required

Required Merit Badges (13)
Camping
Citizenship in the Community
Citizenship in the Nation
Citizenship in the World
Communication
Cooking
Emergency Preparedness OR Lifesaving
Environmental Science OR Sustainability
Family Life (90 day requirement)
First Aid
Personal Fitness (90 day requirement)
Personal Management (90 day requirement)
Swimming or Hiking or Cycling

Electives (8 minimum)
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.

10.

YOUTH POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY

- Senior Patrol Leader
- Assistant Senior Patrol Leader
- Patrol Leader
- Troop Guide
- Quartermaster
- Scribe
- Den Chief
- Chaplain Aide
- Historian
- Instructor
- Librarian
- Webmaster
- Order of the Arrow Representative
- Outdoor Ethics Guide
- Junior Assistant Scoutmaster
- * and others that Scoutmaster approves based on size of Troop/needs of Troop

BSA Ranks

Scout

Tenderfoot

Second Class

First Class

Star

Life

Eagle

Keep Records

Activities

Camping - Dates, number of Nights, name of activity, Tented or Cabin

Miles Hiked - Dates, Location and name of activity

Service Hours - dates, hours, location, name of activity

Leadership Titles and dates

How Do I Earn a Merit Badge?

Must follow these steps in order:

Choose a Topic

Get a Merit Badge Application

Email the Scoutmaster to receive an electronic blue card (they used to actually be paper cards that you would get signed and try not to lose. The Electronic version allows us to track your progress in Scoutbook and not lose the card!)

Contact a Counselor

Merit badge counselors can be found on Scoutbook and on our troop website under the dropdown menu select advancement. Email your counselor and connect them with your Scoutbook (you will have to "invite" them to your Scoutbook page via a Scoutbook invite).

Work on the Requirements

Start work on your merit badge. WHILE simultaneously looking for a merit badge counselor.

Show Off What You Have Learned

Show your work to your merit badge counselor so they can sign off on your electronic blue card

Get the Badge

* This is the standard procedure for a merit badge that is not offered at a Scout Camp (ie. Many Point) or through a Troop activity. If you do a merit badge through a camp out or other Troop activity, Troop 283 will often count the signup for the activity as your "electronic blue card".

Four Steps in Advancement

The Scout Learns

The Scout is Tested

The unit leader authorizes those who may test and pass the Scout on rank requirements. They might include the patrol leader, the senior patrol leader, the unit leader, an assistant unit leader, or another Scout. Merit badge counselors teach and test Scouts on requirements for merit badges

The Scout is Reviewed

After completing all the requirements for a rank, except Scout rank, a Scout meets with a board of review. For Tenderfoot, Second Class, First Class, Star and Life ranks, members of the unit committee conduct it. The Eagle Scout board of review is held in accordance with National Council and local council procedures. In Troop 283 the Scout has a Scout Master Conference followed by a board of review. Sign up for the scout master conference and the board of review on the troop website http://www.troop283.net

The Scout is Recognized

Steps of the EDGE method

1. **Explain**
The teacher explains the skill and why it's important. They can use visual aids like diagrams or models.
2. **Demonstrate**
The teacher shows how to do the skill using the actual materials. They can describe what they're doing as they go.
3. **Guide**
The teacher helps the learner practice the skill, providing guidance and coaching.
4. **Enable**
The teacher allows the learner to try the skill on their own. They can provide feedback and help the learner improve.

The EDGE method can be used to teach a variety of skills, including outdoor ethics, tying knots, and building fires.

Boy Scouts Terminology

assistant patrol leader - A Scout who is appointed by the patrol leader to help him and to take his place in his absence.

assistant Scoutmaster ASM - A volunteer Scouter, 18 or older, appointed by the chartered organization to help the Scoutmaster by working with a new-Scout patrol, Varsity Scout team, or Venture patrol.

assistant senior patrol leader ASPL - A troop youth leader, usually in larger troops, who helps the senior patrol leader. Appointed by the senior patrol leader with the Scoutmaster's advice and consent.

Baden-Powell, Robert Stephenson Smyth - Founder of the worldwide Scouting movement. Born February 22, 1857, in London. Made a baron in 1929. He is referred to as Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell, Chief Scout of the World. Died January 8, 1941. Abbreviate to B-P (without periods).

board of review BOR - A review held to determine if a Scout has satisfactorily completed rank requirements. A review may be held also to encourage Scouts who are not advancing. For the first five ranks, the board of review is conducted by the troop committee. For the Eagle Scout rank, the district committee responsible for advancement conducts the board of review.

camp director - The Scouter in charge of the administration of a Scout resident camp or a Cub Scout day camp or resident camp.

camp ranger - A ranger's responsibilities may include keeping camp facilities functioning properly, performing camp improvements and maintenance, issuing supplies and equipment related to maintenance.

camporee - Derived from two words: camp and jamboree. A camporee is a district or Council troop activity that demonstrates the techniques of living in camp. Involves a one- or two-night camping experience and may include Scoutcraft competition.

Chaplain - (1) Spiritual leader for units appointed by the church, synagogue, or community organization chartered to use the Scouting program. (2) One who gives spiritual leadership to a camp or jamboree community; conducts religious services according to his or her faith and arranges for other religious observance as needed; provides help in dealing with morale; and visits those who are ill and provides counseling in case of bereavement.

chaplain aide - A youth leader who works with the troop chaplain to ensure all members have appropriate religious observance during outings and helps other Scouts in the religious emblems program. Appointed by the senior patrol leader with the Scoutmaster's advice and consent.

charter - In the BSA, charters authorize (1) an organization to operate BSA Scouting units (see "chartered organization"); (2) a local Council to incorporate as a BSA local Council; (3) operation of an Order of the Arrow lodge; or (4) the BSA to incorporate. See "Charter of the Boy Scouts of America" and "Charter and Bylaws of the Boy Scouts of America." When used as a verb, use "to obtain a charter" and "to renew a charter" rather than "to charter" or "to recharter."

chartered organization - A religious, civic, fraternal, educational, or other community-based organization that has applied for and received a charter to operate a BSA Scouting unit.

chartered organization representative - A manager of Scouting in a chartered organization who also represents this organization in the local Council and district.

commissioner - A volunteer Scouter who works with packs, troops, teams, and crews to help the units succeed. In addition to the council commissioner, there are district commissioners, assistant district commissioners, roundtable commissioners, huddle commissioners, and unit commissioners. Also see "international commissioner."

Council - An administrative body chartered to be responsible for Scouting in a designated geographic territory. The Southwest Florida Council is responsible for Scouting in 7 Southwest Florida counties.

Council president - The elected volunteer Scouter who heads the Council and chairs its executive board.

court of honor COH - A recognition ceremony for those who have met the requirements of any one of the Boy Scout ranks, merit badges, or other awards

district - A geographical area of the Council determined by the council executive board to help ensure the growth and success of Scouting units within the district's territory. The Southwest Florida Council is made up of Panther, Alligator, Two Rivers and Manatee districts.

district committee - Consisting of chartered organization representatives and elected district members at large, the district committee coordinates the functions of the district to carry out the policies and objectives of the Council. The executive officer of the district committee is the district chairperson.

district executive - A professional Scouter who works under the direction of the local Council Scout Executive and acts as an adviser to the volunteer leaders in the district.

Eagle Scout - The highest rank for Scouts.

Fast Start training - Adult volunteer leadership training that immediately furnishes the information new leaders need to help them get started, help them understand what is expected of them, and assist in establishing effective meeting patterns. There are versions for Cub Scout and BSA Scout leaders.

First Class - The rank above Second Class Scout and below Star Scout in Boy Scouting.

Friends of Scouting (FOS) - An annual opportunity for Scouters and interested people in the community to be identified with the local Council through their financial support and influence in the expansion of the Council program.

Gilwell Park - The training center of the British Scout Association and the original homesite of Wood Badge training. Located in Epping Forest, England; chosen by Baden-Powell as the territorial designation for his peerage, Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell.

Good Turn - A distinctive feature of Boy Scouting is its emphasis on service to others. The Good Turn habit is one that all Scouts endeavor to acquire.

high adventure - Refers to high-adventure activities or to trek programs administered by local Councils for older Boy Scouts, Varsity Scouts, and Venturers.

Jamboree - A term chosen by Baden-Powell to describe the first international gathering of Scouts camping together in London in 1920. The term is restricted to indicate a national or world jamboree. Not capitalized unless in the title of a specific jamboree, as: "1993 National Scout Jamboree" or "19th World Scout Jamboree." The BSA has a national jamboree every four years.

junior assistant Scoutmaster JASM - A troop may have any number of junior assistant Scoutmasters. They are 16- or 17-year-old Scouts who help the senior patrol leader; they are appointed by the SPL, with the Scoutmaster's advice and consent.

Key 3 - (1) The Council Key 3: the council president, council commissioner, and scout executive; (2) the district Key 3: the district chairman, district commissioner, and district executive

Leave No Trace - The BSA is committed to this nationally recognized outdoor skills and ethics awareness program to reduce impacts on the environment and other people. The seven principles should be followed at all times in the outdoors: Plan ahead and prepare; camp and travel on durable surfaces; pack it in, pack it out; leave what you find; minimize campfire use; respect wildlife; and respect others.

Life Scout - The rank below Eagle Scout and above Star Scout.

long-term camping - A camping experience consisting of five or more consecutive days and nights in the outdoors.

merit badge - A recognition given to a Boy Scout for completing the requirements for the badge. There are more than a hundred subjects in life skills, hobby, and career fields, with requirements and supporting pamphlets to help Scouts broaden their outlook.

merit badge counselor - A registered adult volunteer at least age 18 who is expert in a merit badge field and shares enthusiasm for that field with Scouts and who certifies that requirements have been met.

national office - The address of the administrative offices of the Boy Scouts of America is: Boy Scouts of America, 1325 West Walnut Hill Lane, P.O. Box 152079, Irving, TX 75015-2079. The phone number is: 972-580-2000.

Order of the Arrow OA - Scouting's national honor society. Youth members must hold First Class Scout rank; they are elected by all youth members of the troop, based on their Scouting spirit and camping ability. The aim of the OA is to promote the outdoor program and service to Scouting.

patrol - A small group of Scouts (usually five to eight) who belong to a troop and work together in and out of troop meetings. Normally, there are several patrols in one troop. Capitalize only when part of a title, such as "Fox Patrol." Note: Webelos dens are not patrols.

patrol leader - Elected by the patrol members, this Scout leads the patrol and represents it on the patrol leaders' council, which plans the troop program.

patrol leaders' Council (PLC) - Each patrol leader, representing his patrol, meets with other patrol leaders and the senior patrol leader to plan their troop program. The Scoutmaster acts as an adviser.

P.R.A.Y. - Abbreviation for Programs of Religious Activities With Youth. An organization outside the BSA that administers religious awards for youth-serving organizations, including the BSA, Girl Scouts, and Camp Fire.

Quality awards - Recognition given each charter year to units and each calendar year to districts, councils, areas, and regions that commit to and meet specified national standards pertaining to leader training, service, advancement, camping, and membership growth. Applies to packs, troops, teams, crews and ships.

region - One of four geographical administrative units of the BSA: Northeast Region, Southern Region, Central Region, and Western Region. The Southwest Florida Council is located in the Southern Region.

roundtable - An event conducted by a roundtable commissioner and roundtable staff to help the unit leadership of a district plan and carry out their own unit programs.

Safe Swim Defense plan - An eight-point plan of recommended procedures for conducting group swims. The eight points are (1) qualified supervision, (2) physical fitness, (3) safe swimming area, (4) lifeguards on duty, (5) lookout, (6) ability groups, (7) buddy system, and (8) good discipline.

Safety Afloat - Guidelines for safe unit activity afloat in craft less than 26 feet long: (1) qualified supervision, (2) physical fitness, (3) swimming ability, (4) personal flotation equipment, (5) buddy system, (6) skill proficiency, (7) planning, (8) equipment, and (9) discipline.

Scout Executive - The chief executive officer of the council responsible for the administration, financing, marketing, motivation, recruiting, and staffing required for successful Council operations. Greg Graham is the Scout Executive of the Southwest florida Council.

Scout reservation or camp - Land owned by or leased to the Boy Scouts of America to further the Scouting program. A Scout reservation usually has two or more camps. The Southwest Florida Council's two camps are: Camp Flying Eagle located in Bradenton, and Price Sanders Scout Reservation (Camp Miles) located in Punta Gorda on the Cecil B. Webb Wildlife Management area.

Scout Sunday - The Sunday before February 8, Scouting Anniversary Day.

Scouter - A registered adult member of the BSA who serves in a volunteer.

Scouting Anniversary Day - February 8, 1910, was the day William D. Boyce incorporated the Boy Scouts of America.

Scouting Anniversary Week - This is the week, beginning on Sunday, that includes February 8, Scouting Anniversary Day. During the week, units are encouraged to conduct rededication ceremonies and to demonstrate Scouting's purposeful activities.

Scoutmaster - A volunteer Scouter, 21 or older, appointed by the troop committee to lead a Boy Scout troop.

Scoutmaster conference - A distinctive feature of the troop advancement plan in which a Scoutmaster helps a Scout accept the responsibility for his own growth toward each rank.

Scoutmaster's Minute - A part of the closing ceremony of a troop meeting or campfire in which the Scoutmaster encourages Scoutlike conduct by telling a story.

Second Class - The rank above Tenderfoot in BSA Scout

senior patrol leader SPL - Each troop has one senior patrol leader, a Scout elected by the Scouts to help all the patrols succeed. He may be assisted by one or more assistant senior patrol leaders.

Silver Beaver Award - A recognition given by the National Court of Honor for distinguished service to youth within the Council.

short-term camping - A camping experience consisting of one to four days and at least one night outdoors.

Squad - A Varsity Scout team subdivision that consists of four to eight members; equivalent to a patrol in a BSA Scout troop.

squad leader - Elected by squad members, this Varsity Scout leads the squad and, with other team members, develops team meeting agendas.

Star - The rank above First Class and below Life in Scout advancement.

Tenderfoot - The first rank in the BSA Scout advancement program. Always singular.

Totin' Chip - A recognition given to Scouts who subscribe to the Outdoor Code and understand and can demonstrate the proper handling, care, and use of woods tools.

troop - The unit that conducts BSA Scouting for the chartered organization. Capitalize only when used with the troop number.

Unit - The entity that conducts Scouting for the chartered organization; it consists of registered youth members and registered adult volunteer members. A unit may be a pack, troop, team, crew, or ship.

Varsity Scout - A youth who is a registered youth member of a Varsity Scout team.

Varsity Scout team - A stand-alone unit that conducts Varsity Scouting for the chartered organization.

Varsity Scouting - A part of the program of the Boy Scouts of America for young men (Varsity Scouts) who are at least 14 but not yet 18 years old. The unit is a team; the unit leader is a Coach. Emphasis is on advancement, high adventure, personal development, service, and special programs and events.

Volunteer - Individual who donates service, time, or funds to support the program of the Boy Scouts of America.

Wood Badge - Training award granted upon completion of the Wood Badge for the 21st Century course. A leather thong with two wooden beads, a special neckerchief, and a slide (woggle) are worn by those who have completed the training.