

Troop 111
Merit Badge Process
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Last Update: May 14, 2025

Working on Merit Badges

Merit badges are a big part of your Scouting journey. They let you explore new interests, build skills, and work toward advancement—all while having fun. Here's how the process works in our troop:

1. Choose a Merit Badge

You can pick from over 135 merit badges on topics like camping, first aid, robotics, personal finance, cooking, and more. Some are [required](#) for advancement (like *First Aid* and *Citizenship in the Nation*), while [others](#) are just for fun and learning.

2. Get Approval First

Before starting any merit badge, you **must get approval from the Scoutmaster or an Assistant Scoutmaster**.

3. Find a Merit Badge Counselor

A **Merit Badge Counselor** is an adult who has registered with Scouting America to guide you through a specific badge. They'll help you understand the requirements, teach you skills if needed, and review your work.

- Our troop keeps a list of approved counselors. Ask the Advancement Chair or Scoutmaster for help finding one.
- You can also work with counselors from other troops—just make sure they are officially registered with Scouting America.
You must always follow Scouting America's two-deep leadership and Youth Protection policies—you should never meet with a counselor one-on-one without another registered adult or your parent present.

4. Work on the Requirements

Once you have your counselor and Scoutmaster approval, you can start working on the badge:

- Read the requirements in your **Merit Badge pamphlet**. All pamphlets are now free [online here](#).
- Your counselor may offer a class or meet individually.
- Keep a record of your work—photos, written notes, or logs can be helpful.

5. Meet with the Counselor

You'll meet with your counselor to:

- Ask questions and learn skills.
- Show what you've completed.
- Discuss what you've learned (remember: you don't have to be perfect, but you do need to *try your best* and *do the work yourself*).

You can complete a badge in a few days, over a few months, or even longer. It's your pace. And you can work on multiple merit badges at the same time.

6. Get Credit and Wear It Proudly

Once your counselor signs off that all requirements are complete, notify your troop's Advancement Chair or Scoutmaster. You'll receive your badge at the next Court of Honor.

Helpful Tips

- **Use the Blue Card.** It's your official record for the merit badge process. Some counselors require them; others use digital tools like Scoutbook. Ask your counselor what they prefer.
- **Partner with another Scout.** Asking other scouts in your troop to join you is a great way to make the process more fun and keeps you motivated.
- **Group Classes:** Some badges are taught at troop meetings, summer camp, or special events. These are great ways to start or complete a badge with friends.
- **Ask for Help:** Not sure where to begin? Talk to your Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol Leader, or any adult leader. We're here to help.