

## How to Work on a Merit Badge.

If you want to work on a Merit Badge individually, your first step must be to ask the Troop 76 Scoutmaster for a Blue card. The Scoutmaster will discuss with you the Merit Badge's requirements, your interest in it and how it fits into your advancement plan. If it is appropriate for you to work on the badge at this time, the Scoutmaster will provide you the signed and dated blue card you need to start out on the right foot.

- If you do not have a Merit Badge counselor for the badge, ask the Scoutmaster or Advancement Chair or Troop Committee Chair who you can contact. There are both Troop 76-only MB Counselors for many of the more common Merit Badges and a larger list of other counselors on a Scatacook District-wide list.
- Obtain a recent copy of a Merit Badge requirement book from the Troop 76 Librarian or at one of the BSA supply locations ([http://troop76.org/where\\_to\\_find.htm](http://troop76.org/where_to_find.htm)) or find the updated requirements online through Troop76 website links at <http://troop76.org/scoutlinks.htm#advance> .
- Contact the Merit Badge counselor before you begin. Failure to do this risks your doing things you don't need to do or having to repeat work done by not fully understanding the Counselor's expectations.
- Have Merit Badge counselor sign your blue card when requirements are complete. (3 signatures)
- Return the blue card signed by your MB Counselor to the Scoutmaster who will review it with you and put the final signatures on the blue card. (Application and Applicant's record).
- Give the signed blue card to the Advancement Chair. (Application and Applicant's record)

The Applicant's Record part of the blue card will be returned to you, stapled to the Merit Badge at the next Court of Honor. **BE SURE TO KEEP THIS BLUE CARD !!!** It is the most official record of your having earned the Merit Badge and you will need it to confirm the accuracy of your advancement records, a critical step for your eventual Eagle rank application.

Merit Badge courses are often organized by the Troop during the Scouting Year and they are announced at Troop meetings so pay attention to announcements both at the meetings and online on the Troop Website. Taking advantage of Merit Badges courses sign ups offered at troop meetings is a great way to move forward on your Road to Eagle!