

Boy Scout Merit Badges

As soon as a scout bridges into a troop, he may begin earning merit badges. Indicated by a small patch worn on an honor sash, these Boy Scouts of America (BSA) awards denote skills and areas of interest mastered by the scout. He may continue to earn badges until his 18th birthday.

Merit Badge Counselors

A scout must work with a merit badge counselor to earn the badge. These counselors are registered with the BSA and have experience in their subject either by vocation or avocation. They may register to work with scouts only within the troop with which they are affiliated, or they may offer their services to all scouts in the community.

Our troop maintains a list of merit badge counselors drawn from our own adult leadership. If a scout wishes to pursue a badge for which we have no counselors, he or his scout leader should contact the BSA district office to attempt to locate another counselor on file in the area.

Scout Buddies

BSA policy dictates no one-on-one contact between scouts and adult leaders; therefore, a scout may not work on a badge by himself with the counselor. While the scout buddy may be anyone---a parent, guardian, sibling or friend---finding another scout interested in earning the same badge may prove the most useful.

Merit Badge Book

The scout will need to obtain and read the booklet for the badge he wants to earn. These pamphlets include information on the subject, as well as a list of merit badge requirements the scout must complete.

The troop librarian maintains a collection of merit badge books. Some schools and libraries also have them to borrow, or the scout can purchase them directly from a scout shop or online at ScoutStuff.org.

The books may undergo a revision in January of each year. If a scout begins working with the requirements from an old book, he may continue with those requirements rather than having to switch to the new version, if one exists. Merit badge requirements are also available on the BSA's website, Scouting.org.

Merit Badge Workbooks


Many merit badge requirements involve written work. While not specifically required, workbooks accompany each book to help the scout keep his writing organized. Scouts can download and print workbooks for free from MeritBadge.org

Instructions on Completing Blue Cards

1. Prior to starting a Merit Badge, you must obtain a blue card from the Scoutmaster. The Scoutmaster will review your request to make sure the badge is appropriate and that you have met any/all prerequisites. He will sign the front of the blue card. You must complete all other necessary items **NEATLY**. Please see images.

Please make sure your name and merit badge are **PRINTED CLEARLY** on all three sections.

Front of Card

Information for Applicant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A merit badge application can be approved only by a registered merit badge counselor. You must have a buddy with you (Scout buddy system) at each meeting with the merit badge counselor. Turn in your approved application to your unit leader. You will be awarded the merit badge emblem and certificate at a suitable occasion. 		<table border="1"> <tr><td>Counselor Initial</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Date of approval</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Requirement No. and name</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Counselor Initial</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Date of approval</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Requirement No. and name</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Counselor Initial</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Date of approval</td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>Requirement No. and name</td><td></td></tr> </table>	Counselor Initial		Date of approval		Requirement No. and name		Counselor Initial		Date of approval		Requirement No. and name		Counselor Initial		Date of approval		Requirement No. and name		APPLICATION FOR MERIT BADGE JOHN DOE Name: 123 CHERRY STREET Address: HAMPTON, VA 23666 City: HERITAGE Troop, team, crew, or ship No. 855 District: COLONIAL VIRGINIA Council: 34124A and is qualified to begin working for merit badge noted on the reverse side. 1/1/06 <i>Mike La Grasso</i> Date Signature of unit leader BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA 34124A 2003 Boy Scouts of America
Counselor Initial																					
Date of approval																					
Requirement No. and name																					
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Information for Counselor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Merit badge applications must be signed in advance by the applicant's unit leader. The Scout must have his buddy (Scout buddy system) in attendance at all instructional sessions. You may not change any requirement, but you may share your knowledge or experience that will make the counseling more interesting and valuable. 																					
#34124A 																					
7 30176 34124 8																					

Back of Card

The applicant has personally appeared before me and demonstrated to my satisfaction that he has met all requirements for this (please print) RABBIT RAISING Merit badge Name of counselor: _____ Address of counselor: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Telephone number of counselor: _____ Signature of counselor: _____ Date: _____ Checked and recorded: _____ Date: _____ Certificate and badge presented: _____ Date: _____ Applicant will turn in this portion to his unit leader for record posting.	APPLICANT'S RECORD Name: JOHN DOE has given me his completed application for the RABBIT RAISING Merit badge Completed on: ____ / ____ / ____ by _____ Signature of counselor: _____ Signature of unit leader: _____	COUNSELOR'S RECORD Applicant: JOHN DOE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Troop <input type="checkbox"/> Team <input type="checkbox"/> Crew Unit number: 855 RABBIT RAISING Merit badge Date completed: ____ / ____ / ____ Remarks: _____ It is suggested that the counselor keep this record for at least 1 year in case any question is raised later in regard to this award.
NOTE TO BOY SCOUT, VARSITY SCOUT, OR VENTURER: Retain this copy for your permanent records.		

- Once you locate a counselor and begin working on the merit badge, they will complete the first section on the back of the card (immediately right). As you work on the merit badge, they will note your progress on the middle section of the front of the card (far right).

The applicant has personally appeared before me and demonstrated to my satisfaction that he has met all requirements for the (please print)

RABBIT RAISING
Merit badge
NATHAN EVERETT

Name of counselor
7575 FREEDOM AVENUE
Address of counselor
HAMPTON, VA 23666
City Zip code
(757) 595-3356
Telephone number of counselor

Signature of counselor _____ Date _____

Checked and recorded: _____

Date _____ Initials _____

Certificate and badge presented _____ Date _____

Applicant will turn in this portion to his unit leader for record posting.

Requirement No. and letter	Date of approval	Counselor Initial	Requirement No. and letter	Date of approval	Counselor Initial
1	1/15/06	NJE			
2	1/15/06	NJE			
3A	2/21/06	NJE			
3B	2/21/06	NJE			
4	1/15/06	NJE			

- When you have completed all of the requirements, the counselor will sign and date the circled portions of the blue card indicated by the circled areas below.

PARTIAL MERIT BADGES:

If you are attending the Merit Badge Academy or camp and do not complete all of the requirements, the counselor will return to you all 3 sections of the blue card. They will list the completed requirements, date, and initial in the middle section (see #2). They will not sign any portion noted in the circles above.

The applicant has personally appeared before me and demonstrated to my satisfaction that he has met all requirements for the (please print)

RABBIT RAISING
Merit badge
NATHAN EVERETT

Name of counselor
7575 FREEDOM AVENUE
Address of counselor
HAMPTON, VA 23666
City Zip code
(757) 595-3356
Telephone number of counselor

Signature of counselor *Nathan J. Everett* Date **2 / 21 / 06**

Checked and recorded: _____

Date _____ Initials _____

Certificate and badge presented _____ Date _____

Applicant will turn in this portion to his unit leader for record posting.

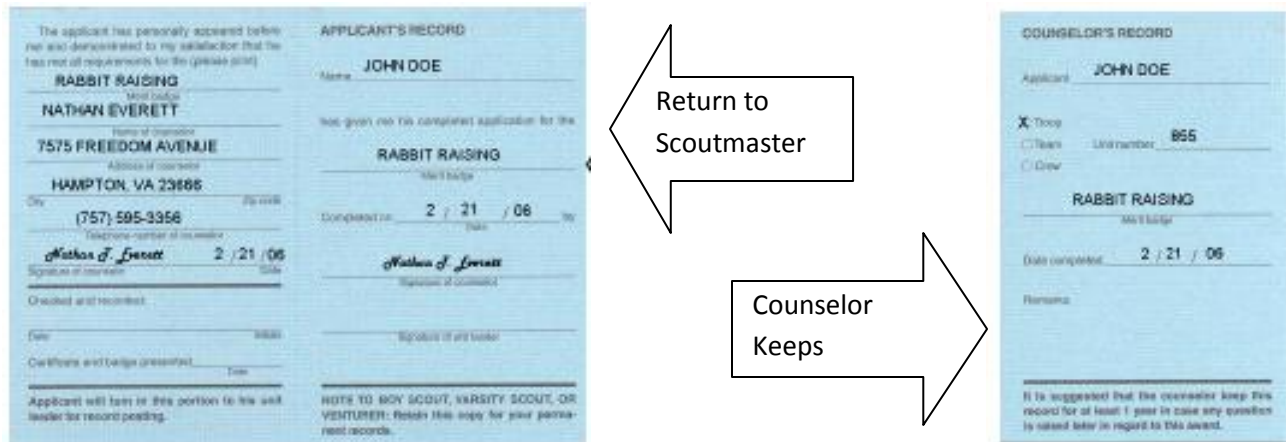
APPLICANT'S RECORD
Name **JOHN DOE**
has given me his completed application for the **RABBIT RAISING** Merit badge
completed on **2 / 21 / 06** Date
Nathan J. Everett Signature of counselor

COUNSELOR'S RECORD
Applicant **JOHN DOE**
 Troop Unit number **855**
 Team
 Crew
RABBIT RAISING Merit badge
Date completed **2 / 21 / 06**
Remarks:

NOTE TO BOY SCOUT, VARSITY SCOUT, OR VENTURER: Retain this copy for your permanent records.

It is suggested that the counselor keep this record for at least 1 year in case any question is raised later in regard to this award.

- For completed merit badges, the counselor will keep their portion of the blue card. **BOTH** of the remaining sections must be returned to the scoutmaster.



- Our policy within Troop 24 is to award only the patch for the Merit Badge within a month of the scout handing in the blue card. The Applicant's Record Section will be returned during the next Court of Honor. The scout should retain this section of the blue card in his scout records. It serves as proof of his work should the physical badge ever require replacement. Certain silver-sided badges are required to earn the rank of Eagle Scout.