

Merit Badge Homework Guide

General Information

Homework for All Merit Badges before class:

1. Scouts must read the BSA merit badge book (pamphlet) **before** class.

A Scout might borrow a copy from their troop library or from another Scout. The latest print editions are stocked and are for sale at the Mecklenburg County Council Scout Shop at 1410 East 7th Street Charlotte, NC 28204 704 333 5471

www.mccscouting.org

Scouts may order printed or digital copies from www.scoutshop.org.

2. Scouts can print current merit badge requirements from <https://www.scouting.org/skills/merit-badges/all/>

Unofficial merit badge workbooks with all requirements and spaces to write in answers are posted at <http://usscouts.org/meritbadges.asp>

Printing a workbook is optional and not mandatory, but Scouts will find that a workbook from <http://usscouts.org/mb/worksheets/list.asp> will be very helpful in organizing their work and in sending in merit badge homework assignments to their merit badge counselors.

Workbooks printed from <http://usscouts.org/mb/worksheets/list.asp> may contain extra resources Scouts may use to complete merit badge requirements.

One example is a Home Safety Checklist applicable to all three of Emergency Preparedness, Fire Safety, and Safety Merit Badges. (The same checklist applies to all three merit badges and the same checklist is included in all 3 of these merit badge workbooks. Scouts working on one of these merit badges could consider working on all 3 because requirements are similar. Electricity Merit Badge has a similar, overlapping Electrical Safety Checklist. Scouts should consider completing this aspect of a home inspection for all 4 merit badges at the same time.)

Scouts should bring these pages and blank paper and pen to each virtual and/or in-person course session to present their notes and research and to facilitate discussions with the counselor and other Scouts during class. Paper and pens will not be supplied by the course instructors.

3. Scouts may have opportunities to use the Internet for merit badge research, independent study, school assignments, and/or entertainment. **Scouts should use the Internet with parent permission and supervision.** Scouts should earn their **Cyber**

Chip Award and should “re-charge” (renew) it every year. Cyber Chip is a requirement for Scout and Star ranks.

<https://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/cyber-chip/>

Information about the Cyber Chip Award and a sample Cyber Chip Scout-parent contract are included in the **Cyber Chip Guide** in the appendix to this Guide.

4. Each Scout must show their pre-course homework to the counselor during their class sessions. If a Scout is not prepared, they may not be able to complete all merit badge requirements before the end of their merit badge class. The Scout can work with their merit badge counselor, or with a home troop counselor identified by their Patrol Leader or Senior Patrol Leader and approved by their Scoutmaster, after merit badge class to complete their blue card. Scouts may also work with their home troop Advancement Chair or Scoutmaster to identify merit badge counselors through Scoutbook.

5. Blue card requirement: Each Scout must present to the counselor a new blue card signed by their Scoutmaster indicating permission to participate in the course. Scouts should fill out the requirement grid portion of the card and have the Merit Badge Counselor initial this section of the card for each completed requirement. When the Scout has completed all requirements, the Merit Badge Counselor must sign and date the card in 2 places. Each Scout is responsible for obtaining these signatures and for turning the card in to their Scoutmaster so that the merit badge can be registered and awarded.

More information about blue cards is included in a **Blue Card Guide** posted at [Blue Card Guide.docx](#)

6. Partial or Full Completion: Full completion of this merit badge is expected for all Scouts who complete pre-course homework and all assignments before and/or during and/or after class. If a Scout does not finish all requirements, the Scout can work with the Counselor to list and initial requirements completed on their blue card for later completion with the Counselor. Scouts should follow the buddy system with 2-deep adult leadership for all merit badge sessions and for all meetings with Counselors.

7. The BSA *Guide to Advancement 2021*, pages 40 to 51, contains a wealth of information on “The Merit Badge Program”. Here is a link to that document: <https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33088.pdf>