

# HOW TO USE A Blue Card to earn a merit badge



## STEP ONE



A few merit badges have certain prerequisites but any registered Scout may work on any of them at any time after his unit leader has signed the blue card acknowledging that the Scout is registered, has discussed the merit badge with his unit leader and has secured a registered counselor. Scouts are free to choose any registered counselor (including their parents or other family members).

## STEP TWO

The Scout contacts the counselor and arranges to meet them. Meetings may happen at the counselors office, work site, or home. They may begin discussing what the Scout already knows followed with coaching, guidance, and additional meetings. The Guide to Safe Scouting, and the "Sweet 16 of BSA Safety" must be followed. Scouts must not meet one-on-one with adults. Meetings must take place where others can view the interaction, or the Scout must have a buddy: a friend, parent, —or better yet, another Scout working on the same badge. The Scout should bring any required projects or evidence, such as photographs or certification.



The counselor records and initials the completed requirements and gives the Scout the whole blue card so he has a record of the work completed.

**If not complete**

**When complete**

When the Scout completes all the requirements with another registered counselor, or the same one he began working with then he follows the directions at the right

**Scouts need not pass all requirements with one counselor.** A subsequent counselor may choose not to accept partial work, but this should be rare. A Scout who believes he is being treated unfairly may work with his Scoutmaster to find another counselor. Partial work has no expiration except the 18th birthday.

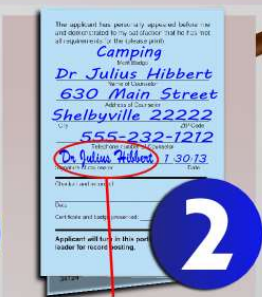
**Once It Is Earned, It's Earned** Once a registered and approved counselor has passed a Scout on requirements for a merit badge, it cannot be taken away. Nor does unit leadership have the authority to retract approval, or take the badge away. Even if a merit badge counselor were found to be improperly documented, it would be a rare occasion when a Scout would be penalized for the mistake of an adult volunteer.

**when completed**

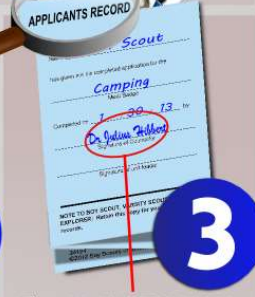
**STEP THREE**



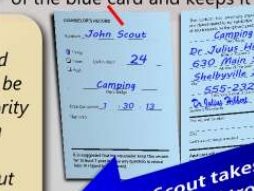
The COUNSELORS RECORD panel is filled out. The counselor removes this part of the blue card and keeps it



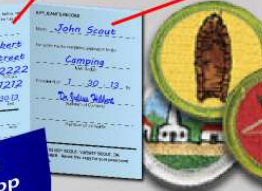
The center panel is filled out and the counselor signs it.



The APPLICANTS RECORD panel is filled out and the counselor signs it.



The Scout takes the blue card troop

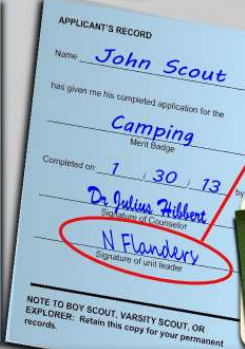
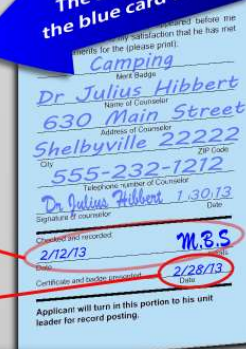


## STEP FOUR



The center panel is given to the advancement chairman who records the achievement and indicate they have done so by initialing and dating the card.

When the badge and certificate are presented the date is noted here.



The APPLICANTS RECORD panel signed by the unit leader and the Scout keeps it with his other advancement records.

The Guide to Advancement is the official source for policies and procedures.



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