

TROOP 618

Parent Meeting

October 2, 2012

- **Reports**
 - **Scoutmaster's Report**
 - **Advancement Report**
 - Working on going live with TroopMaster.
 - Looking for an Advancement Chair
 - **Treasurer's Report**
 - Checkbook balance is: \$3104.85
 - Troop Dues due 11/30/12
 - Propose \$70.00
 - Fundraiser – Popcorn Sales
 - First Show n Sell this Saturday 11-4
 - 2-3PM spot for Scout still open
 - Money for sales due 10/23
- **October Troop Activities**
 - Big Basin State Park 10/27 – 10/28
 - Need two Adults to go on this outing & drivers
 - Camping/Food \$ for trip will be collected on 10/16 (~\$20)
 - Pete & Terry's Retirement Celebration – 10/23/12
- **Adult Leaders**
 - Doug Hutmacher has stepped up to be Scoutmaster
 - Glenn Bryan has stepped up to be ASM
 - Assistant Scoutmasters
 - Advancement Chair
 - Treasurer – Crystal Kerr
 - Secretary
 - Activities Coordinator
- **How does the Merit Badge Program Work?**

Merit Badge 101

A Scout can learn about sports, crafts, science, trades, business, and future careers as he earns merit badges. There are more than 100 merit badges. Any Boy Scout may earn them.

Pick a Subject. Talk to your unit leader (Scoutmaster) about your interests. Read the requirements of the merit badges you think might interest you. Pick one to earn. Your unit leader will give you the name of a person from a list of counselors. These individuals have special knowledge in their merit badge subjects and are interested in helping you.

Find the most up-to-date requirements for each merit badge at: <http://www.scouting.org>
Choose the *Youth* tab, then *Boy Scout* in the left-hand menu. Choose *Advancement, Awards, Recognitions* in middle of page then *Awards* from the left menu. Scroll down to *Merit Badge Program* under the list on the page. Or, go to: <http://www.scouting.org/sitecore/content/Home/BoyScouts/Youth/Awards.aspx>


Scout Buddy System. You must have another person with you at each meeting with the merit badge counselor. This person can be another Scout, your parents or guardian, a brother or sister or other relative, or a friend.

Call the Counselor. Get a signed merit badge application (blue card) from your unit leader. Get in touch with the merit badge counselor and tell him or her that you want to earn the merit badge. The counselor may ask to meet you to explain what is expected and to start helping you meet the requirements. You should also discuss work that you have already started or possibly completed.

NOTE: This means that if you discover that you are currently completing some merit badge requirements through a class at or outside of school, a club or school sport, or a hobby you can tell the Merit Badge Counselor what you have already done.

Show Your Stuff. When you are ready, call the counselor again to make an appointment. When you go take along the things you have made to meet the requirements. If they are too big to move, take pictures or have an adult tell in writing what you have done. The counselor will test you on each requirement to make sure you know your stuff and have done or can do the things required.

Get the Badge. When the counselor is satisfied that you have met each requirement, he or she will sign your application (blue card). Give the signed application to your unit leader so that your merit badge emblem can be secured for you.

The current Boy Scout Requirements book is available from your local Scouting merchandise distributor. It may also be ordered online at www.scoutstuff.org. 

Requirements. You are expected to meet the requirements as they are stated—no more and no less. You must do exactly what is stated in the requirements. If it says "show or demonstrate," that is what you must do. Just telling about it isn't enough. The same thing holds true for such words as "make," "list," "in the field," and "collect," "identify," and "label."

The requirements listed on *scouting.org* are the official requirements of the Boy Scouts of America. However, the requirements presented on the website might not match those in the *Boy Scout Handbook* and the merit badge pamphlets, because these requirements are updated only when the *Boy Scout Requirements* book is updated. The only significant difference is that as new merit badges are introduced, the requirements are posted here.

If you have already started working on a merit badge when a new edition of the pamphlet is introduced, *you may continue to use the same merit badge pamphlet and fulfill the requirements therein to earn the badge.* You do not need to start all over again with the new pamphlet and revised requirements.

Why Does My Scout Need Merit Badges?

Merit Badges are needed for Rank Advancement after First Class.

The Ranks of Boy Scouts:

Scout

Tenderfoot

Second Class

First Class

Star

6 Merit Badges (4 must be Eagle Required)

Life

5 Additional Merit Badges – 11 in all (3 more must be Eagle Required badges – 7 total Eagle Required)

Eagle

21 total Merit Badges

Including the following Eagle Required Merit Badges (12 in all):

First Aid

Citizenship in the Community

Citizenship in the Nation

Citizenship in the World

Communications

Personal Fitness

Emergency Preparedness OR Lifesaving

Environmental Science

Personal Management

Swimming OR Hiking OR Cycling

Camping

Family Life

The Crib Notes Version of the Merit Badge Process

