

How to Open a Merit Badge - Troop 168

1. Look at badges that interest you, or are needed for advancement.
2. Read current requirements (www.meritbadge.com). Note requirements can change from year to year, so check your booklets against current requirements.
3. Buy or borrow booklet: booklets are in Scout Shops for sale. **Troop 168** maintains some as library material. Again, remember requirements can change from older booklets. Booklets usually cost \$3-5 at the Scout Shop.
4. Obtain Scoutmaster approval to open a Blue Card. Contact Advancement Chairman to ask a Blue Card.
5. Look for a Counselor. Check Troop 168 Merit Badge Counselor list available on the Troop Website (<http://www.bsa168.org>). Many of these are fellow scout parents you know.
6. Identify Merit Badge counselor. If you are choosing a Troop Counselor, that parent may want to offer the badge to other scouts. If you are asking about a teacher, you may use that counselor with another scout or with your parent with you.
7. If you are using a counselor new to the Troop, you must have them fill out a merit badge counselor form and adult application. These are available through the Merit Badge Counselor Coordinator. No cost to the counselor, but they must be willing to review and discuss with you the requirements of the badge. These two forms must be turned in as soon as you have decided to use that counselor.
8. Work on badge, keeping paperwork and notes you make. When you finish, make sure the card is filled out and signed completely by the counselor, and return to the Advancement Chairman or Scoutmaster. You will receive back one of the three pieces of the blue card. **Please keep that in your permanent records.** Usually, you will receive the badge at the next Court of Honor.
9. **Questions:**

Blue Cards: Mr. Lackey (dblackey@yahoo.com)

Counselors: Mr. Whelan (frankjwhelan@yahoo.com)

Advancement: Mr. Kepler (al.kepler@yahoo.com)

For other details, Troop Policy, and Counselor Roster, refer to the website (<http://www.bsa168.org>).

Other useful links: <http://www.longhorncouncil.org> and <http://www.meritbadge.com>