



New Scout Tip: Merit Badge Blue Cards

What are those blue cards?!? Although seeming a bit antiquated, the blue card system is how progress towards a merit badge is tracked. It is important to note that blue cards are handled slightly differently depending on if you are working on a merit badge within the confines of the troop or from an outside source like Discovery Place. **Below is an outline of each process that you can follow.** The merit badge coordinator maintains a list of merit badge counselors within the troop that can be referenced when exploring merit badge opportunities.

The last step with earning any merit badge is having the patch awarded, which will occur at a Court of Honor following it being marked as complete in TroopMaster. A portion of the completed blue card will be returned, which should be retained in a safe place for reference.

Within the Troop:

- Sign up for or be placed into a merit badge class being offered by Troop 58
- Participate in the first class for the merit badge
 - If the merit badge is completed during this class, the blue card will be completed by the merit badge counselor and turned into the advancement coordinator for signatures and input into TroopMaster
 - The scout will likely not see a blue card in this scenario
 - If the merit badge is not completed during the first class, the scout will continue to work with this same counselor until the merit badge is completed
 - Partial blue cards are completed by the counselor and given to the advancement coordinator for TroopMaster entry and filing
 - When a scout has arranged to work on the merit badge with the counselor, the scout can check out the blue card and give it to the counselor for updates
 - The scout may then return it to advancement coordinator for updates and safe keeping or to be marked as completed

External:

- Request a blue card (one per merit badge) from the merit badge coordinator
- Bring blue card to the scoutmaster and explain what merit badge you would like to earn
- Scoutmaster will sign the blue card
- Bring signed blue card with you when working towards the merit badge
- Present blue card to merit badge counselor to track progress with their initials on card
- Present fully or partially completed blue card to merit badge coordinator for input into TroopMaster