

# MERIT BADGE PROPOSAL

## Purpose of a Merit Badge

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Merit badges provide Scouts with opportunities for learning, personal growth, physical development, career awareness, citizenship, and life skills development and give Scouts an opportunity to explore a potential hobby or career field.

## Review Process

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Upon receipt of the Merit Badge Proposal application, a team of volunteers will evaluate the proposal and determine whether the merit badge supports being its own badge or if it could be incorporated in our current program library of resources. This team is also charged with considering the proposal's possible ties to Scouting's mission or history. Scouts BSA may conduct a youth interest survey or form a focus group for feedback on the proposal.

Along with the proposal and any information gathered, the team submits a recommendation to the Scouts BSA Merit Badge Committee for consideration. This committee, which encompasses volunteers from around the country, conducts regular reviews on all recommendations. Any approved proposals then move into the development phase.

**The Scouts BSA Merit Badge Committee is charged with reviewing all merit badge proposals. This group will determine whether a proposal will be adopted, deferred, recommended to be combined with another merit badge, or denied. The committee will only provide status updates to the submitter if a proposal is adopted.**

## Merit Badge Proposal Considerations

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When submitting a proposal for a new merit badge, please know that it will be reviewed based on the following guidelines:

- How well the proposed topic fits with Scouting (values, Scout Oath, Scout Law, *Guide to Safe Scouting*, etc.)
- The practicality of the proposed merit badge (resources to recruit merit badge counselors, uniqueness, existence of standardized "rules" and administrative organization, safety and risk considerations, etc.)
- How fun and engaging the subject is for Scout-age youth (depth and breadth of appeal, age appropriateness)
- Resource requirements (cost to Scouts/units, camp implications, etc.)
- Uniqueness (whether this is merit badge different from current merit badges or whether it could enhance an existing merit badge)
- If this merit badge can be earned by all Scouts BSA age youth

## Contact Information

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Submitter's name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Scouting affiliation (unit, council, and role)

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Organizational affiliation (association, foundation, corporation—if appropriate)

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**TITLE.** Provide a short proposed title for the merit badge. \_\_\_\_\_

**DESCRIPTION AND RATIONALE.** Please describe the proposed merit badge and the rationale for its creation. Attach or provide separate sheets or documentation as needed.

**REQUIREMENTS.** Please provide a draft of the merit badge requirements. Be as specific as possible. Attach additional sheets as needed.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR CONSIDERATION.** Provide any additional information for consideration, such as the availability of outside resources for developmental support, external considerations, and so on. Attach separately if appropriate.

Email this proposal to the Scouts BSA Merit Badge Committee at [merit.badge@scouting.org](mailto:merit.badge@scouting.org)

