



MERIT BADGE PROPOSAL

Purpose of a Merit Badge

A merit badge provides a Scout with additional opportunities for learning, personal growth, physical development, career awareness, citizenship, and life skills development.

Review Process

Upon receipt of the Merit Badge Proposal application, a task force of volunteers will review the proposal and determine whether it should move forward. This task force is also charged with considering the proposal's possible ties to Scouting's mission or history. The 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 task force submits a recommendation to the BSA's Pilots and Program Development Committee for consideration. This committee, which encompasses volunteers from around the country, conducts three reviews annually. Any approved proposals then move into the development phase.

The Pilots and Program Development Committee is charged with reviewing merit badge proposals within 120 days of receipt. During that time, this group determines whether the proposal will be adopted, deferred, recommended to be combined with another merit badge, or denied. Merit badges recommended for combination with an existing merit badge will be referred to the appropriate program task force.

Merit Badge Proposal Considerations

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)

Contact Information

Submitter's name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip code _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Scouting affiliation (unit, council, and role)

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

TITLE. Please 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. Develop and attach a draft of requirements and initial thoughts behind those requirements for the merit badge. Be as specific as possible.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION FOR CONSIDERATION. Please 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.

Submission Method

The Merit Badge Proposal application must be submitted either by email or regular mail to the addresses below.

By email: merit.badge@scouting.org

By regular mail: Pilots and Program Development—Merit Badge Proposal
1325 West Walnut Hill Lane, S272
Irving, TX 75038



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
1325 West Walnut Hill Lane
P.O. Box 152079
Irving, Texas 75015-2079
www.scouting.org