

MERIT BADGE GUIDE

The merit badge program is the backbone of any summer camp program. In this section you will find information on the policies and procedures at Circle Ten Camps in regards to the merit badge programs. Many merit badges can be completed at camp; however because of time requirements, special projects, or other considerations, some merit badges require pre-requisites or special skill levels.

Your unit will be able to sign up individual Scouts for classes March 1. The sign up process will be delivered through the Black Pug website. You will sign up your Scouts for a class, not a specific class time. The Black Pug system will balance all of the Scouts that want a particular class over all of the times that the class is offered. If you can select the class in Black Pug, then the Scout will be scheduled in that class. Due to feedback from you (the unit leaders that have attended our camps in the past) we will be imposing hard caps on many of our most popular classes. Priority will be given to those units who submitted their schedules first and we will do our best to accommodate the class requests of every youth. If your Scouts would like to schedule an hour off, that is an option that will be available during the sign-up process. All fees for classes incurred through the course scheduling system are due when you arrive at camp.

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then the Scout will be scheduled in that class.**

MERIT BADGE SCHEDULING DEADLINE BY WEEK

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6
May 10, 2021	May 17, 2021	May 24, 2021	May 31, 2021	June 7, 2021	June 14, 2021

Our goal for the 2021 camping season is to deliver your Scouts' tentative class schedule back to you four weeks prior to your arrival. This should allow ample opportunity for you to communicate back to your Scouts and help you in your camp planning and preparation. During your camping session you will be able to log in to your Black Pug account and view a daily record of what your Scouts accomplished the previous day, including attendance and requirements completed. If you would like a printed daily report, you may request that through the Camp Director.

At the close of your session you will be provided, as part of your check-out packet, a written record of the unit advancements that your Scouts accomplished during the week. Circle Ten Council Summer Camps do not award any merit badges. That is the purview of your unit committee. This report does not tie into any other online advancement system that your unit may be using. It is strictly a record between the summer camp and your unit so that you may award badges appropriately. No Circle Ten Camp will provide blue cards for any merit badges that were earned during their week at camp.



Here are some other helpful hints as you go about including the summer camp merit badge program into your unit program:

- **Complete** the required online scheduling in Black Pug before the deadline for your week.
- **Avoid** scheduling and age conflicts by reviewing the merit badge sessions and activities for which your Scouts have registered.
- **A Scout** comes to summer camp to have fun, to have a learning experience, to learn a skill and, yes, possibly to earn a few merit badges. Encourage a Scout to take several merit badges, but not to schedule so many that camp is no longer fun.
- **Discuss** the merit badge requirements with your Scouts. You know each Scout's capabilities. Guide them to ensure that they have fun while experiencing new things at camp.
- **If two Scouts would like to be in the same class, be sure to make them buddies on their profiles in Black Pug. You can make groups of three or more by buddying Scout 1 to Scout 2, Scout 2 to Scout 3, and then Scout 3 to Scout 1.**
- **Give** a Scout alternatives and choices. Sometimes a Scout's desires are bigger than his abilities. Guide the Scout toward merit badges for which they are best suited. Remember some merit badge sessions are limited due to equipment limitations, skill level required, and safety considerations.
- **Check** requirements for any equipment the Scout may be required to bring.
- **The summer camp** merit badge program is designed so that Scouts teach Scouts. You may offer assistance to the staff member at the merit badge session, but remember the staff member is in charge.
- **The Scout** must successfully demonstrate the intent of the requirement to receive a completion for that requirement. This is the Merit Badge Counselor's call. Attendance is not justification for completion. Only those requirements that can be completed at camp will be recorded as complete. It will be the troop's responsibility to issue full credit/earned status.
- **No requirement** may be changed, deleted, or added to any badge.
- **Verify** your Merit Badge Completion record in Black Pug prior to departing camp to ensure Scouts get credit for their accomplishments.
- **Most Aquatic Merit Badges require that the Scout pass the swim test. Be sure to discuss ahead of time alternative classes in case they cannot pass the swim test.**



Per BSA Policy, we do not award merit badges. That task belongs to your unit committee. At the conclusion of your camping experience you will be given a report detailing the requirements that the Scouts completed for your committee to use in awarding any advancements.