

# NOVI TROOP 407 MERIT BADGE INFO FOR SCOUTS

(read pages 187-189 in The Boy Scout Handbook first)

You need two things to start on a merit badge:

1. Merit badge pamphlet (current list - <http://usscouts.org/mb/mbbooks.asp>)
2. Blue card from the Scoutmaster

## **Pamphlets:**

Check the troop library for current merit badge pamphlets. They are available for sale at the Clinton Valley Council Store and at Nankin Hobby. You can also order them online from scoutstuff.org (click on "Literature" and then "Merit Badge Pamphlet.") They cost \$4.49 each. Once you finish a merit badge, the troop would very much appreciate it if you donated your merit badge pamphlet to the troop library.

## **Blue cards:**

You can ask me, Mr. Hawkins, or our Scoutmaster, Mr. Heslop, about counselor availability for the merit badge you choose. **Mr. Heslop is the final authority on which counselor you will be assigned for your merit badge. He will sign your blue card indicating his approval for you to start your merit badge.**

For a Boy Scout, the blue card is more important than the actual badge itself. When you finish a merit badge, the blue card, signed by your counselor, is the only documentation that an Eagle Board of Review will accept regarding proof of your merit badge completion. Keep your completed blue cards together in a safe place!

## **The Buddy System**

Scouts may not meet alone with a merit badge counselor. The Scout must always have a buddy present. The buddy may be another Scout, friend, parent, or a parent-authorized adult. The buddy must always be in visual contact with the counselor and the Scout. The buddy does not have to, and should not in many cases, be in hearing range of the counselor and the Scout.

It is usually easier and more fun for two Scouts to work together on a merit badge. That solves the buddy problem. Just remember that the counselor will require each Scout, individually, to complete all the requirements for the merit badge.

## **Next Step: Call your counselor**

One of the things you learn in the merit badge program is how to communicate and plan with adults. Therefore, you, the Scout, must initiate contact with your counselor. When you call your counselor, you should introduce yourself as a Scout from Troop 407, and ask to set up a meeting.

At that meeting, you and your counselor (with a buddy present) will plan what needs to be done to complete the merit badge and when you should meet again.

Always remember your Scout ideals when meeting with adults. Be polite, be on time, and be ready for your meeting. Your counselor will expect you to have read the merit badge pamphlet before you show up. Be prepared and have fun learning!