

Troop 54 Recommended Merit Badge Sequence

Merit badges are awards earned by Scouts as they explore interests and learn skills. Scouts earn **6 badges for Star**, **5 more for Life** (11 total), and **10 more for Eagle** (21 total).

Eagle-Required Merit Badges: Troop 54 recommends the age-appropriate sequence below to ensure Scouts have the maturity to engage deeply with each subject.

Eagle-Required Merit Badge	Recommended Minimum Age	School Grade	Recommended Minimum Rank
Emergency Preparedness** (Prerequisite: First Aid MB)	11-12 years old	5th, 6th	Any
Environmental Science**	11-12 years old	5th, 6th	Any
Family Life	11-12 years old	5th, 6th	Any
First Aid	11-12 years old	5th, 6th	Any
Swimming	11-12 years old	5th, 6th	Any
Camping	12-13 years old	6th, 7th	First Class
Citizenship in the Community	12-13 years old	6th, 7th	First Class
Citizenship in the Nation	12-13 years old	6th, 7th	First Class
Citizenship in the World	12-13 years old	6th, 7th	First Class
Cooking	12-13 years old	6th, 7th	First Class
Cycling**	12-13 years old	6th, 7th	First Class
Personal Fitness	12-13 years old	6th, 7th	First Class
Sustainability**	12-13 years old	6th, 7th	First Class
Communications	14+ years old	8th	Star
Hiking**	14+ years old	8th	Star
Lifesaving ** (Prerequisite: Swimming MB)	14+ years old	8th	Star
Personal Management	14+ years old	8th	Star

** Emergency Preparedness OR Lifesaving: Choose one.

** Environmental Science OR Sustainability: Choose one.

** Swimming OR Hiking OR Cycling: Choose one.

Non-Eagle Required Merit Badges: Most non-Eagle required merit badges may be taken at any age and rank. However, some activities (e.g., Kayaking, Canoeing) or summer camps may have minimum age requirements.

Scout Procedures

- **1. Discuss with an adult leader:** Talk with the Scoutmaster or a PASM before starting to discuss your interest, review requirements, and find an approved counselor.
- **2. Get approval:** Obtain unit leader approval before starting. Once your leader signs your blue card or marks it in Scoutbook, you may begin work with your counselor.
- **3. Earn the badge:** Work with your counselor to complete each requirement. The counselor decides when you have completed all the work.
- **4. Submit completion records:** Ensure completion is recorded in Scoutbook or submit your signed blue card to the Advancement Chair.

PASM Procedures

- **1. Discuss with the Scout:** Discuss interest, review requirements, and help choose a registered counselor via the Troop 54 Merit Badge Counselor Directory on the troop website.
- **2. Grant Initial Approval:** Sign the physical blue card OR add a signature date in Scoutbook *before* work begins. Assign a counselor if he or she registered with Troop 54. Leave it blank for camps.

Unit Leader Signature Not Recorded in Scoutbook Plus

[Add signature date](#)

Merit Badge Counselor

There's no counselor for this youth's merit badge. Assign one so he/she can view and approve this youth's work on this badge.

ASSIGN COUNSELOR

- **3. Support Progress:** Help the Scout stay on track and find a Troop 54 counselor to oversee any partial merit badges.
- **4. Sign Completed Cards:** Once the counselor approves in Scoutbook, *no further PASM action is needed*.
 - If using Scoutbook, PASM **do not** mark the badge as "Approved/Recorded". That box is for the counselor.
 - If using a paper blue card, sign the unit leader portion and instruct the Scout to submit it directly to the Advancement Chair (advancement@troop54houston.org).