

## Helpful Hints on Merit Badges

Many merit badges can be completed at summer camp; however, some can not be completed at camp due to time required for special projects and/or visits. In addition, some merit badges require prerequisites or special skill levels. Merit badge scheduling will be accomplished between the Scout and the Counselor. Some merit badges offered at camp require work prior to arrival at camp. Ensure that your Scouts are aware of these requirements and that they **BRING THE PROPER DOCUMENTATION** showing the work has been done.

**Please share the information below with your Scouts. They will need it to plan their week at Camp Freedom:**

MERIT BADGES	COMMENTS
ARCHERY  *younger scouts would have more fun at free shoot	Proficiency and experience in archery is necessary for the completion of the merit badge. Practice needs to be scheduled each day. Recommended for older Scouts. Cost for Arrow Kit is approximately \$6.00 - \$10.00. Practice will depend on weather.
ATHLETICS	Fun merit badge for older scouts. Good practice for the Presidential Physical Fitness Award. Requirement # 4 cannot be done at camp.
BASKETRY	Materials cost about \$5.00-\$10.00 at the Trading Post.
CAMPING	A note from the Scoutmaster will satisfy requirements #8a.
CANOEING	Must pass swim test. See Aquatics Section for cost and details.
COMMUNICATIONS	Requirement #5 should be done at home.
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS	Must have First Aid merit badge and requirement #5 and #8c should be done prior to camp.
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE	This merit badge can be completed at camp but does require 3 hours of observation by the scout. He will spend two hours per day at the merit badge site. Difficult for young Scouts.
FIRST AID	Read merit badge book.
FORESTRY	Read merit badge book. (Helpful to do requirements # 5 & #7 before camp).
INDIAN LORE	Requirements #2a and #2d cannot be done at camp. Cost of kits range from \$5.00 to \$20.00. Time consuming and difficult to get at camp. Study a tribe before camp.
LEATHERWORK	This is another good badge for the younger scout. Cannot do #4b and #4d. Extra cost for supplies.
LIFESAVING	Scout must have earned the Swimming merit badge before they can attempt this badge. The clothes inflation requirement necessitates the scout bring with him to camp a long-sleeve, button up, close woven shirt and a pair of long pants. This badge should not be attempted by younger scouts.
NATURE	Requirement #4 section B of Birds, and section A of Reptiles and Insects, Fish, Mollusks, and Crustaceans and requirement #5 should be done before camp. Documentation needs to be shown. Will not complete at camp unless lots of pre-work completed. Educational.
ORIENTEERING	This merit badge is recommended for older scouts. Scouts should provide their own compass. Much time required to set up course.
PIONEERING	Must know basic scout knots. Difficult for younger scouts.
RIFLE SHOOTING	Option B is only available. Takes a lot of patience and practice.

## Helpful Hints on Merit Badges (cont'd)

MERIT BADGES	COMMENTS
ROWING	Scouts must have passed the Swimmer's test.
SALESMANSHIP	Read Merit Badge book prior to camp. Bring Ideas!
SOIL and WATER CONSERVATION	Complete requirement #7 before camp. Time consuming.
SWIMMING	Long sleeve button up shirt and long pants are needed for completion of this badge. Knowledge of swim strokes helpful.
WEATHER	Requirement #8b completed outside of camp and it is recommended requirement #9 be done prior to camp as well.
WILDERNESS SURVIVAL	Includes an overnight. Recommended for older scouts who need to bring homemade survival kit from home (req. #5).
WOODCARVING	Should bring own sharp pocket knife (this item will be for sale at Trading Post). Requires some skill so is generally suited for older scouts. Time consuming.

**NOTE:**

If a Scoutmaster wishes to help instruct a Merit Badge course, please come prepared to do so if permission is granted by the Camp Program Director. Please let the Camp Director and Program Director know prior to unit arrival to Camp Freedom. For example, last summer we did not offer the Geology Merit Badge since this merit badge takes a deep understanding of the core subject. However, we had a volunteer leader who graciously volunteered to facilitate this MB week #2. Please let us know if you will be willing to help out, and we will make every effort to obtain the supplies for your merit badge.