

## Merit Badges to Work On at Home

Here are several opportunities to complete merit badge requirements at home. Remember that you must work with a registered merit badge counselor to complete a merit badge, but many merit badge requirements are designed to be completed by you working on their own. Others are designed to be finished by working with members of your family. Read the requirements carefully and do your best to follow them exactly. Gather all products of your work, including written work and photos, and deliver those electronically to your counselor. You can also call your counselor to provide verbal descriptions and explanations. Be sure to include a parent or other adult Scout leader in all of your conversations with adults, including texts and emails. Check the listing at <https://www.scouting.org/programs/scouts-bsa/advancement-and-awards/merit-badges/> and click on any merit badge you're interested in. A short PDF file listing all of the requirements for that merit badge will appear in your downloads folder. Some of the BSA merit badge pamphlets are available for online purchase from Amazon as Kindle ebooks. And you can order actual pamphlets from <https://www.scoutshop.org/literature>.

### Family Life

This one is a natural while you're spending time at home with your family, and it's an Eagle Required merit badge as well. If you haven't yet begun it, tell your Scoutmaster you'd like to start work on it. He can tell you who to get in contact with as a counselor. Many of the requirements are designed to be completed with family members, and now is a perfect time to do that. Requirements 3, 4, 5 and 6 are all designed to be completed by working directly with your family, and your parents can provide a note to your counselor by text or email to confirm that you finished them to their satisfaction. You could also provide photos of your work on some of these, especially your efforts on requirements 4 and 5. Be sure to discuss all of the requirements with your family.

### Home Repairs

This is an excellent opportunity to learn valuable new skills and help your family to repair and improve your home while you have some extra time to do it. Find out from your Scoutmaster who are counselors for this merit badge, then let your counselor know that you plan to begin work on it. If a family member has the skills to safely teach and guide you in these projects, you can go to work right away. This specific note appears in the pamphlet for this merit badge: "Either a parent or the merit badge counselor may supervise the Scout's work on any Home Repairs requirements." Talk with your parents about how you can get started on this one and gain some really useful skills.

### Personal Management

This is an Eagle Required merit badge, and it includes some important things you can work on with your family, especially requirements 1 and 2. Discuss these with your parents and decide what specific items might be good ones to explore with them. If you haven't started this one, get contact information for a counselor from your Scoutmaster.

### Personal Fitness

If you've already started working on this one, do your best to continue your work on it. You can easily plan your day to include a time to keep meeting the requirements. Set reminders to help you remember each day. It will pay off.

## **Scouting Heritage**

This is a great merit badge. Every Scout should understand how this movement began and what its founders had in mind for it. The history of Scouting, on a local, national and world level, is a fascinating story. Much of what you need to learn can be found online. Get in touch with a counselor and start learning more about our organization.

## **Reading**

This is a great merit badge to consider while you have extra time to spend at home. You can pick what interests you and proceed at your own pace. Requirements 2, 3, 4 and 5 can be done on your own. Check with your family to see what books are already in your home, and which ones they would recommend. Also check to see what's available online – you may be surprised. There are many great titles available as *free* ebooks. Check <https://ebookfriendly.com/free-public-domain-books-sources/> to get ideas. They are free because the copyright on them has expired, so they're not in the public domain.

## **There's no better time than right now...**

These are great opportunities to explore new areas of activity and continue with your advancement at the same time. If you think of others, be sure to pass your ideas along to the troop. Stay well and Be Prepared.