



2024 Advancement Prerequisites

Below you will notice a listing of prerequisites for each merit badge/activity. You should pay attention to those that are “Starting Requirements” (SR) and those that are “Prerequisites.”

Starting Requirements (SR)

These are requirements that the Scout needs to complete before taking the merit badge/activity. For example, a Scout must be classified as a swimmer before starting Swimming Merit Badge. If the Scout has not completed these Starting Requirements before starting that advancement, they will not be able to attend the merit badge/activity.

Prerequisites

These are requirements that the Scout needs to complete before camp if they want to complete the merit badge/activity while at camp. For example, a Scout must complete requirement 9 of Weather before coming to Tesomas if they want to complete it while at camp. Prerequisites are shown without the (SR) noting under the Prerequisite column.

Referenced requirements are from the 2024 Boy Scout Requirements book. Merit badge pamphlets may be outdated so please use this book when inquiring about requirement specifics.

Levels of Difficulty

Listed in parentheses after each merit badge/activity is a letter that indicates its difficulty.
 A - Difficult merit badge/activity, appropriate for older scouts with 3 or more years in Scouting.
 B - Appropriate for advancing Scouts with 2 or more years in Scouting.
 C - Easy merit badge/activity, appropriate for beginning Scouts.

Comments

Comments listed for each merit badge/activity provide additional details that will help you in your planning and preparations.

Completing Requirements After Camp

Some times it's not possible to complete all of the merit badge requirements at camp due to time requirements, approvals and/or proper instruction. As a result, Scouts will receive a partial at camp and are encouraged to find an approved Troop or district counselor to finish at home.

Merit badge/activity	Prerequisites	Comments
Animation (B)	None	Req. 5 can be completed at home.
Archery (B)	None	Practice, limited to 16 Scouts per session.
Archaeology (A)	None	Req. 7 can be completed at home.
Astronomy (A)	None	Req. 6b, 8 can be completed at home, Req. 6b, 8 are weather dependent at camp
Basketry (C)	None	None
CAMPING (B)	Req. 4b, 5e, 7b, 8c, 8d, 9a, 9b, 9c	Most of the written work can be done at home.
Canoeing (B)	Be a swimmer (SR)	Req. 2 (CPR) can be completed at home.
Chemistry (A)	None	Req. 7 can be completed at home.
Chess (A)	None	None
Climbing (A)	None	Recommended for Scouts 13 and older, long pants are recommended, closed toed shoes are required. Limited to 12 Scouts/session.
COMMUNICATION (B)	Req. 5, 8	Req. 1, 4, 6, and 7 are suggested before coming to camp
COOKING (A)	Req. 4, 6	
C.O.P.E. (A)	None	Recommended for Scouts 13 and older, long pants are recommended, closed toed shoes are required.
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS (B)	Req. 1, 2c, 6c, 8b, 9	Alternative to Lifesaving.
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE(A)	Req. 3e	Recommend Req. 4 completed at home, be sure to bring your journal to camp along with your report.
Exploration (A)	None	Req. 8 can be completed at home.
Fingerprinting (C)	None	None
FIRST AID (B)	Req. 1, 5 (bring your kit to camp)	Req. 7b (CPR) can be completed at home.
Fire Safety	Req. 11, 12	

Merit badge/activity	Prerequisites	Comments
Fishing (C)	None	Bring your gear.
Forestry (B)	None	None
Game Design (C)	None	Recommend Req. 1, 8, Begin thinking of game (Req. 5)
Geocaching (B)	Req. 7, 8	Bring in notes of completion
Geology (B)	None	None
Instructional Swim	None	Not a merit badge.
Kayaking (C)	Be a swimmer (SR)	None
Leatherwork (C)	None	None
LIFESAVING (B)	Be a swimmer (SR), Req. 1a (SR), Swimming MB (Recommended)	Req. 15 (CPR) can be completed at home. Must bring long pants, long sleeve shirt and belt for disrobe. Alternative to Emergency Preparedness.
PERSONAL FITNESS (B)	Req. 1, 6, 7, 8	Requires a 12 week fitness program.
PERSONAL MANAGEMENT (A)	Req. 1, 2, 8	Recommend Req. 9 completed at home.
Photography (B)	Req. 1b	Bring a digital camera to camp.
Reptile and Amphibian Study (C)	Req. 8	Bring journal to camp
Rifle Shooting (A)	None	Recommend Req. 1f Practice, limited to 16 Scouts per session.
Robotics (A)	None	Req. 6a can be completed at home.
Shotgun Shooting (A)	None	Practice, limited to 8 Scouts per session, Cost \$25 (automatically added to unit bill)
Small-Boat Sailing (B)	Be a swimmer (SR)	Req. 1b (CPR) can be completed at home.
Snorkeling (C)	Be a swimmer (SR)	Not a Merit Badge.
Space Exploration (C)	None	Do not bring your own rocket or engines.
Sports (C)	Req. 5	None
Stand up Paddleboarding (A)	Be a swimmer (SR)	Not a merit badge.
SWIMMING (C)	Be a swimmer (SR)	Alternative to Hiking or Cycling.
Wilderness Survival (B)	Req. 5 (bring your kit to camp)	Involves spending a night in an improvised shelter.
Wood Carving (B)	Totin' Chip (SR)	Pocket knives with blades over 3.5" prohibited.

**It is beneficial to have merit badge pamphlets read before coming to camp.
Scouts are encouraged to bring the pamphlets with them.**