**BSA MERIT BADGE PROGRAM INFORMATION!**

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  The above link to **"The Merit Badge Program"** should be a valuable tool, not only to our new scouts and parents, but to those who have been in the system for some period of time.

  Each scout desiring to undertake any Merit Badge must first receive a signed "Blue Card" from the Scoutmaster (or designated ASM).  If he has a qualified counselor in mind, so be it.  If not, we'll find him one.  The rest is pretty simple.  The *Scout* and the *Counselor* work hand in hand (figuratively speaking) to complete the desired badge.  Merit Badge *"Workbooks"* have become the on-line invaluable tool for any scout desiring to earn any badge.  *Merit Badge "Books"* are available to give you all of the answers to those questions you can't otherwise find the answer to (See our Librarian to check out a book!)

  "Eagle Required" badges are mandated for the **Star**, **Life**, and **Eagle** advancement steps, as well as enough "non-required" badges to complete the full slate of badges necessary for rank progression.  **Scout**, **Tenderfoot**, **Second-Class**, and **First-Class** steps focus on "scouting skills," and less on Merit Badges, although those scouts may work on badges that are suited for their age groups during the course of their progression and by attending any Summer Camp experience.

  We hope that this information has been helpful to you as your son (our scouts) progress through the advancement process. We are available at any troop meeting to answer specific questions or assist you in finding a counselor for any particular badge. **Merit Badge Counselors** are *always* needed, as there ate 130+ subject areas that our Merit Badges cover. See the Scoutmaster or Troop Committee Chairman if YOU can assist in any area of expertise!

Wayne

Scoutmaster