

The following merit badges require additional certifications for counselors.

Merit Badge Pamphlets are a great way to gain understanding and familiarize yourself with concepts covered in requirements.

The merit badge program is based on the Scout demonstrating the knowledge and skills needed to complete the merit badge. The merit badge counselor will:

- Assist the Scout as they plan the assigned projects and activities to meet the merit badge requirements.
- Coach the Scout through interviews and demonstrations on how to do the required skills.
- Follow the exact wording of the requirements of the merit badge, making no deletions or additions
- Complete a blue card (paper or in Scoutbook) after determining the Scout is qualified for the merit badge

MERIT BADGE *requires certifications*	SKILL SET section 7 of the Guide to advancement 2025 https://www.scouting.org/resources/guide-to-advancement/
Archery	supervised by a BSA National Camping School-trained shooting sports director or USA Archery or National Field Archery Association instructor, or by someone who has been trained by one of the three; or alternatively, the activities may be supervised by someone with at least Level 1 training in the operation of an archery range from USA Archery, NFAA, or an equivalent.
Canoeing	BSA Aquatics Instructor or Canoeing Instructor certification from the American Canoe Association, American Red Cross, or equivalent; OR local councils may approve individuals previously certified as such or trained by an instructor so qualified.
Climbing	BSA Climb On Safely training BSA climbing Level 2 Instructor is highly recommended certification in First Aid/CPR/AED from the American Red Cross (or equivalent) must be present at these activities.
Kayaking	BSA Aquatics Instructor or Paddle Craft Safety Instructor certification, or kayaking instructor certification from the American Canoe Association, British Canoe Union, or American Red Cross, or equivalent; OR local councils may approve individuals previously certified as such or trained by an instructor so qualified.
Lifesaving	certification in Red Cross First Aid/CPR/AED or equivalent, BSA Lifeguard or Aquatics Instructor or equivalent.
Motorboating	Safety Afloat training

	current or previous certification by an organization (such as the National Safe Boating Council, the United States Power Squadrons, the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, or the US Powerboating component of US Sailing) that meets the voluntary National On-Water Standards for Powerboating or the NASBLA national boating education standards for powerboating; OR local councils may approve individuals previously certified as such, or trained by an instructor so qualified.
Rifle Shooting	<p>handling of firearms or live ammunition is consistent with state and federal law</p> <p>supervised by a certified BSA National Camping School (NCS) shooting sports director, or National Rifle Association (NRA) Rifle Shooting Instructor or Coach. Instruction or other activities involving handling muzzleloaders must be supervised by an NCS shooting sports director or NRA/National Muzzleloader Rifle Association (NMLRA)-certified muzzleloader firearms instructor.</p> <p>Shooting must be supervised by an NRA certified Range Safety Officer (RSO). If instruction and shooting are to occur at the same time, both the RSO and qualified instructor must be present. The supervisor and instructor may not be the same person.</p>
Rowing	BSA Aquatics Instructor certification or equivalent
Scuba Diving	trained and certified by one of the BSA's recognized scuba agencies as found in the Guide to Safe Scouting.
Shotgun Shooting	<p>handling of firearms or live ammunition is consistent with state and federal law</p> <p>supervised by a certified NCS shooting sports director or NRA Shotgun Instructor or Coach. Instruction or other activities involving handling muzzle-loading shotguns must be supervised by an NCS shooting sports director or NRA/NMLRA-certified muzzleloading shotgun instructor.</p> <p>Shooting must be supervised by an NRA certified Range Safety Officer. If instruction and shooting are to occur at the same time, both the RSO and qualified instructor must be present. They may not be the same person.</p>
Small Boat Sailing	<p>Safety Afloat training</p> <p>Instructor certification with a recognized sailing agency or school, US Sailing, or the American Sailing Association</p>
Snow Sports	BSA Winter Sports Safety
Swimming	BSA Safe Swim Defense and BSA Safety Afloat
Water Sports	BSA Safe Swim Defense and BSA Safety Afloat
Whitewater	certified as whitewater canoeing or kayaking instructors by the American Canoe Association or equivalent certification, training, or expertise.