

This is to clear up some misconceptions that some Scouts and Leaders have regarding Eagle River District Merit Badge Days.

Just because you show up for a Merit Badge at Merit Badge Day, that does not mean that you will get the Merit Badge or even anything signed off on your card. If you are goofing around during the session or are unable to answer the questions after the session, the counselor will not sign off items on your card. That is why we recommend bringing a copy of the worksheet with you, so that as the counselor covers an item during the session, you can write down what they said.

Bring a copy of the Worksheet and Merit Badge pamphlet with you and take a look at them before Merit Badge Day and try to complete some of the items. Bring any work that you did outside of Merit Badge Day with you. We have some pre-requisites posted online, these are usually items we cannot cover during a merit badge day, so look at these also. You must complete these and maybe other items, before you get your card signed off completely. These items can be done before or after Merit Badge Day, but most counselors would like them done before so that they feel they accomplished something during the day.

Unless otherwise specified, work on a requirement can be started at any time. Ask your counselor to help you learn the things you need to know or do. You should read the merit badge pamphlet on the subject. Many troops, schools, and public libraries have them.

Show Your Stuff. When you go, take along the things you have made to meet the requirements. If they are too big to move, take pictures or have an adult tell in writing what you have done. The counselor will test you on each requirement to make sure you know your stuff and have done or can do the things required.

Get the Badge. When the counselor is satisfied you have met each requirement, he or she will sign your application. Give the signed application to your unit leader so your merit badge emblem can be secured for you.

Requirements. You are expected to meet the requirements as they are stated—no more and no less. You must do exactly what is stated in the requirements. If it says “show or demonstrate,” that is what you must do. Just telling about it isn’t enough. The same thing holds true for such words as “make,” “list,” “in the field,” and “collect,” “identify,” and “label.”

The major thing to remember is the counselors have to follow the same standards as you are expected to. You are expected to meet the requirements as they are stated and the counselor cannot change these expectations or requirements.

Also, please respect the counselors. They are not getting any compensation and are taking time away from their families to do this for you.