

Family Life Merit Badge

Updated: 12/1/2025

Important information about how to prepare for the merit badge

Parents, please review the content of a merit badge prior to registering your Scout: some badges may be challenging for younger Scouts. Also, the class discussions are more interesting if Scouts review *all* the requirements for the badge before the program. The chances of your scout completing all the work for the badge increases dramatically when they are properly motivated and the badge content is age-appropriate.

Merit badges are not designed to be completed in a day and require independent work on the part of the Scout outside of the workshop.

It is the Scout's responsibility to answer the requirements. NOT THE PARENT

A Scout may use a parent's email account to submit requirement answers BUT:

It is NOT the parent's responsibility to scan in the Scout's work and send it to me

That is the Scout's responsibility

Parents are not to act as an agent of the Scout. All assignments must be completed by the Scout and if there are issues, the Scout must communicate those to me.

Before attending, please make sure your Scoutmaster knows the Scout is taking this virtual merit badge class and indicates the Initial Unit Leader Signature in the merit badge in Scoutbook. [Click on the Scout in Scoutbook, click on their advancement, the merit badge and Initial Unit Leader Signature, enter a date.] (The Scoutmaster may alternately sign the front of a blue card for the badge. Blue cards are available here:

<https://support.grandcanyonbsa.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/mb-app-blue-card-fillable.pdf> send the signed card to: bill.nelson@scouting.org)

IMPORTANT: For full credit for the badge, evidence of the requirements, as explained below, must be sent to: bill.nelson@scouting.org

The merit badge class will be held in two sessions about 2-3 hours long. We will go over all of the requirements in the classes and give the Scouts a lot of assistance on getting the requirements completed but they will have to be completed outside of class.

Though not required, Scout workbooks are useful and we prefer that Scouts use the workbook during the program. A workbook can be found at:

https://scoutingevent.com/Download/010161677/OR/Family_Life_Workbook.pdf

About blue cards: We will utilize Scoutbook.com and record requirement completion online. Blue cards can be printed by parents and unit leaders in Scoutbook by clicking on the Scout, the Scout's advancement, the merit badge, and print blue cards.

Requirements

TYPE OR WRITE LEGIBLY AND WHERE NOT ASKED FOR A LIST, IN COMPLETE SENTENCES.

PUT YOUR NAME IN EMAILS TO ME AND IN ALL ATTACHMENTS

READ THE REQUIREMENTS CAREFULLY, YOU MUST ANSWER THE REQUIREMENTS AND PROVIDE WHAT IS BEING ASKED FOR.

COPY A PARENT OR GUARDIAN ON ALL CORRESPONDENCE

REQUIREMENTS

We will cover the all requirements in class however the Scout will need to complete them on your own. You need to send the completed requirements to: bill.nelson@scouting.org for credit when completed. (ALWAYS COPY A PARENT OR GUARDIAN)

Some requirements are submitted via the worksheet and some via a signed parent form:

Covered In Class	Parent Form	Worksheet
Req 6a	Part of req 2, 6b	Req 1, part of 2, 3, 4, 5, 7

Requirements you need prior approval by MBC before starting:

- Chore list needs to be submitted for requirement 3 before tracking (see below)
- Project needs to be approved for requirement 4 before starting (see below)

Scouts must work on requirements as an individual.

First read the merit badge pamphlet. The requirements for this badge are a lot easier to finish if you read through the merit badge pamphlet first. The pamphlet for this badge is available free at this link:

<https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/family-life/>

1. Prepare an outline on what a family is and discuss this with your counselor. Tell why families are important to individuals and to society. Discuss how the actions of one member can affect other members. It is recommended that you use the workbook to answer this requirement. Be prepared to discuss this in class

Resources:

[Why Family Matters in Shaping Teens' Passions and Identity \(podcast\)](#)

[Introduction to Family Life \(video\)](#)

[What Is a Family \(video\)](#)

2. List several reasons why you are important to your family and discuss this with your parents or guardians and with your counselor. After discussing this with your parent or guardian, fill out and submit both the answers in the worksheet and the signed form below; and be prepared to discuss this in class.

Resource:

[Families and Family Relationships \(video\)](#)

3. Prepare a list of your regular home duties or chores (at least five) and do them for 90 days. Keep a record of how often you do each of them. Discuss with your counselor the effect your chores had on your family.

The answer to this is in three parts:

- a. Submit the regular home duties or chores to the merit badge counselor. (you can use the worksheet for this)
- b. Keep a record for 90 days, keep a record of how often you do each of them. (you can use the template in the worksheet for this.) Your 90 days don't begin until step (a.) has been completed.
- c. Discuss with your counselor the effect your chores had on your family. (you can use the worksheet for this) Be prepared to discuss this with me.

Resources:

[10 Chores for Teens That Teach Them To Be Responsible Lifelong \(video\)](#)

[Create a Household Chore Checklist in Word - Quick and Easy \(video\)](#)

4. With the approval of your parent or guardian and your counselor, decide on and carry out an individual project that you would do around the home that would benefit your family. After completion, discuss the objective or goal and the results of the project with your family and then your counselor. Submit the project to me for approval **prior** to doing it (see the worksheet for help.)

THIS MUST BE A DIFFERENT PROJECT THAN DONE IN REQ 5

(When finished, fill in the worksheet for this and be ready to discuss this in class)

Resources:

[Handy Teen Finishes House \(video\)](#)
[How To Start a Project \(video\)](#)

5. Plan and carry out a project that involves the participation of your family. After completing the project, discuss the following with your counselor: (use the worksheet to submit this requirement. Photos would be good) **Be prepared to discuss this in class.**

THIS MUST BE A DIFFERENT PROJECT THAN DONE IN REQ 4

- (a) The objective or goal of the project
- (b) How individual members of your family participated
- (c) The results of the project

6. Do the following (discussion of each of these subjects may carry over more than one family meeting):

- (a) Discuss with your counselor how to plan and carry out a family meeting. (we will cover this in class)

Resource:

[Family Meeting \(video\)](#)

- (b) Prepare a meeting agenda that includes the following topics, review it with your parents or guardians, and then carry out one or more family meetings: (After conducting your meeting(s), fill out and submit **the signed form below.**)

(1) How living the principles of the Scout Oath and Scout Law contributes to your family life

Resource:

[Family Meeting \(video\)](#)

(2) The greatest dangers and addictions facing youth in today's society (examples include mental health challenges, use of tobacco

products, alcohol, or drugs and other items such as debts, social media, etc.)

Resources:

[What Causes Addiction, and Why Is It So Hard To Treat? \(video\)](#)

[Teens and Social Media \(video\)](#)

[Electronic Cigarettes and Vaping \(video\)](#)

[How To Identify the Signs of an Unhealthy Relationship \(podcast\)](#)

[How Do I Start a Conversation About Mental Health? \(podcast\)](#)

[Eating Disorder Recovery Stories \(podcast\)](#)

(3) Discuss with a parent or guardian how bodily changes can affect the choices you make as you physically and mentally mature. (This can be done in private, not in a family meeting.)

(4) Personal and family finances

Resources:

[Money Management \(video\)](#)

[The 50-30-20 Rule - Budgeting for Needs, Wants, and Savings \(video\)](#)

(5) A crisis situation within your family and who you can turn to for support during these situations.

Resource:

[Family Bonding \(video\)](#)

(6) The effect of technology on your family

Resource:

[Evolving Technology: Will Family Life Ever Be the Same Again? \(video\)](#)

(7) Good etiquette and manners

Resource:

[Etiquette \(video\)](#)

7. Discuss with your counselor your understanding of what makes an effective parent or guardian and why, and your thoughts on the parent or guardian's role and responsibilities in the family. (You can use the worksheet to answer this.) **Be prepared to discuss this in class.**

Resources:

[What Makes a Good Parent \(video\)](#)

[How To Parent a Teen From a Teen's Perspective \(video\)](#)

[Being a Parent \(video\)](#)

FAMILY LIFE PREREQUISITE FORM

Send signed form to: bill.nelson@scouting.org

SCOUT FULL NAME:

TROOP: _____

BSA Member ID: _____

COUNCIL: _____

MERIT BADGE: FAMILY LIFE – Requirements: 2 and 6b

The Scout named above realizes that certain designated Merit Badges cannot be completed during the merit badge clinic unless prerequisite requirements are met before attending. The Scout also realizes that **this form must be completed correctly, signed and sent to the Merit Badge Counselor** as verification that the prerequisite requirement(s) have been met. The MBC can then sign the Merit Badge upon successful completion of the course.

I certify that the above-mentioned Scout has met the following Merit Badge requirements:

2. List several reasons why you are important to your family and discuss this with your parents or guardians. The Scout should also fill out the worksheet and submit the answers to the merit badge counselor.

6b. Carried out a family meeting on the following topics:

1. How living the principles of the Scout Oath and Scout Law contributes to your family life
2. The greatest dangers and addictions facing youth in today's society (examples include mental health challenges, use of tobacco products, alcohol, or drugs and other items such as debts, social media, etc.)
3. Discuss with a parent or guardian how bodily changes can affect the choices you make as you physically and mentally mature. (This can be done in private, not in a family meeting.)
4. Personal and family finances
5. A crisis situation within your family and who you can turn to for support during these situations.
6. The effect of technology on your family
7. Good etiquette and manners

By signing below, I verify that the above prerequisite requirements have been completed.

Parent or Guardian Signature: _____

Parent or Guardian Printed Name: _____