

Camp Oljato 2020 Merit Badge Process

MERIT BADGE CLASSES

The teaching of merit badges at Camp Oljato is an important part of the program. Ensuring that campers receive the highest quality instruction is vital to the integrity of the Scouting program. While at camp, Scouts must complete all requirements—**no more, no less**—to receive the completed blue card. Scouts who do not complete the merit badge will receive a partial and will be able to complete the merit badge at home with a local merit badge counselor.

Units do not need to bring Blue Cards for their Scouts. We will provide Merit Badge Applications with all of the pertinent information at the end of the week electronically to Unit Leaders. Unit Leaders do still need to approve of each Merit Badge a Scout is working on.

Some of the merit badges offered at Camp Oljato have requirements that cannot be completed while at camp. Merit badges such as environmental science (solitary observation), astronomy (night observations), weather (out-of-class observations), first aid (teaching others), to name a few, will require extra effort on behalf of the Scout. It is suggested that the Scoutmaster look through the merit badge requirements of the classes that each Scout is taking, so that the Scout may fulfill those aspects before camp begins. This will ensure that the Scout will receive the completed merit badge while at camp. Many of these requirements can be fulfilled at camp with the assistance of the Scoutmaster during the Scout's own time. Scouts should also read requirements before coming to camp and begin any such requirements prior to coming if they wish to complete the badges at camp.

Merit badges that do have prerequisites listed in the [merit badge list](#), will require Scouts to come with these requirements completed. If the Scout arrives without these requirements already completed, they will receive a partial as described above. In order to verify the completion of a prerequisite, the Scout should bring to camp an Application for Merit Badge (blue card) with their information on it, and with the prerequisite requirements marked as complete by a merit badge counselor's initial.

Camp Oljato offers merit badges as only one part of the overall camp experience. It is suggested that leaders limit their Scouts to four (five for the more ambitious) merit badges to work on while at camp. This will allow the Scout to participate in other areas of camp that create a well-rounded camp experience. Scouts can work on 3 merit badges during the scheduled merit badge class time and additional badges during open program time.

A few merit badges and activities have minimum age requirements. See the merit badge list or merit badge schedule for specific age requirements.

At Camp Oljato the staff works hard to see that every Scout gets into merit badge classes that he would like to participate in. However, every class does have a limited capacity. Unit leaders should sign their Scouts up for their desired merit badges early. Changes to schedules can be made at camp but will depend on availability. Merit badge registration opens online at 9am, March 31. You will only be able to register Scouts for whom the \$200 cumulative deposits have been paid.

Scouts should be advised to look for merit badges that are not normally offered in their hometown and try for those while at camp. Try new things and look for variety. Proper planning between the Scout and their adult leader and parents will be a big help once the Scout arrives at camp.

Camp Oljato 2020 Merit Badge Process

In order for Scoutmasters to follow the progress of their Scouts throughout the week it is recommended that they come to camp with worksheet packets and merit badge books for the merit badge classes they are taking. In all nature and outdoor skills classes, the instructors will be asking Scouts to show knowledge and advancement by having them fill out their workbooks or take notes. In the traditional classes that follow more of a classroom approach these workbooks are great for note taking and placing the learning squarely on the shoulders of the Scout. They can be used for review by the Scoutmaster and allow for greater retention of knowledge.

Merit badge books will be available at camp for loan with a \$5 cash deposit. The deposit may be refunded at the end of the week upon returning the book in a good and unmarked condition.

MERIT BADGE PRE-REQUISITE VERIFICATION

To verify completion of pre-requisite prior to camp, Scouts must bring an Application for Merit Badge (blue card) with their information on it, and with the requirements in question marked as complete by the initials of a merit badge counselor.