



MERIT BADGE PREREQUISITES & NOTES

2026 NDSCS Merit Badge College

CLASS	PREREQUISITES & NOTES
Communications	<p>5 Attend a public meeting (city council, school board, debate) approved by your counselor where several points of view are given on a single issue. Practice active listening skills and take careful notes of each point of view. Prepare an objective report that includes all points of view that were expressed, and share this with your counselor. <i>Please bring this report to class as verification.</i></p> <p>8 Plan a troop or crew court of honor, campfire program, or an interfaith worship service. Have the patrol leaders' council approve it, then write the script and prepare the program. Serve as master of ceremonies. <i>Please bring a note from your unit leader verifying this is met.</i></p> <p>Please note that Req. 3 requires you to write and deliver a 5-minute speech. While this is not a prerequisite, <i>we suggest having your speech mostly (or entirely) written before attending.</i></p>
Disabilities Awareness	<p>5 Explain what advocacy is. Do one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present a disabilities awareness program to a Cub Scout pack or other group. During your presentation, explain and use person-first language. Find out about disabilities awareness education programs in your school or school system, or contact a disability advocacy agency. Volunteer with a program or agency for eight hours. Using resources such as disability advocacy agencies, government agencies, the internet, and news magazines, learn about myths and misconceptions that influence the general public's understanding of people with disabilities. Learn 10 myths and misconceptions about people with disabilities. Share your list with your counselor, then make a presentation to a Cub Scout pack or other group. <p><i>Please bring a note from your unit leader verifying this is met.</i></p>
Emergency Preparedness	<p>2A At a family meeting, discuss the situations on the chart you created for requirement 1B and make plans for sheltering-in-place and for evacuation of your home. Discuss your family meeting and plans with your counselor. <i>Please bring a note from a parent verifying this is met.</i></p> <p>9 Earn the First Aid merit badge. <i>Please bring a note from your unit leader verifying this is met.</i></p>
First Aid	2B Assemble a personal first-aid kit for hiking and backpacking. <i>Please bring this to class.</i>
Lifesaving	2A Earn the Swimming merit badge. <i>Please either bring a note from your unit leader verifying this is met or be signed up for the Swimming MB in the morning.</i>
Personal Management	<p>2 Do the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare a budget reflecting your expected income (allowance, gifts, wages), expenses, and savings for a period of 13 consecutive weeks. Compare expected income with expected expenses. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If expenses exceed budget income, determine steps to balance your budget. If income exceeds budget expenses, state how you would use the excess money (new goal, savings). Track and record your actual income, expenses, and savings for 13 consecutive weeks (the same 13-week period for which you budgeted). (You may use the forms provided in the Personal Management merit badge pamphlet, devise your own, or use a computer-generated version). When complete, present the records showing the results. Compare your budget with your actual income and expenses to understand when your budget worked and when it did not work. With your counselor, discuss what you might do differently the next time. <p><i>Please bring your budget, recordings, and results to class to verify this is met.</i></p>
Scuba BSA	\$75 added fee. Please complete the online PADI registration prior to class.
Shotgun Shooting	\$15 per round (includes shells & clays). Please pay cash at the range; multiple rounds may be needed to qualify. Firearms are provided (no personal firearms allowed), but bring eye and ear protection and arrange your own transportation to/from Head of the Red Gun & Archery Club.
Welding	\$15 added fee. Scouts will need to wear proper clothing, such as blue jeans and good leather shoes or boots (no sneakers). No clothing made of polyester, nylon, or other synthetic materials.

IMPORTANT NOTE ON REQUIREMENTS

Many classes require Scouts to explore various career paths or prepare ideas for discussion. Please review the requirements before attending and be ready to discuss them with your counselor.