

# Personal Management Merit Badge

Updated 9/21/2021

- Prerequisites: 1, 2, 8, 9, and 10

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. Personal Management is complex and academic in nature and will be easier for Scouts older than 13 years of age to complete.

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. We call these prerequisites. We suggest this is done prior to the badge program date, but we realize this is not always practical or possible, in these cases we will credit the badge as a partial and accept the assignments after the program. More information on prerequisites are on the following page(s).

**IMPORTANT:** For full credit for the badge, evidence of the prerequisites, as explained below, must be sent to: [bill.nelson@scouting.org](mailto:bill.nelson@scouting.org)

The merit badge will be held in two sessions about 2 hours long each.

Though not required, Scout workbooks are very useful and we prefer that Scouts use the workbook during the program. Requirements and workbooks can be found at: <http://www.usscouts.org/mb/mb011.asp> **HINT, this badge is much easier for you if you use the workbook at the bottom of the page that is linked, and you will give me what I am looking for.**

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.

# Personal Management Prerequisites

- updated 5/14/2021

1. Do the following:

- (a) Choose an item that your family might want to purchase that is considered a major expense. (discuss in the workbook or a word document)
- (b) Write a plan that tells how your family would save money for the purchase identified in requirement 1a. (discuss in the workbook or a word document)
  - (1) Discuss the plan with your merit badge counselor.
  - (2) Discuss the plan with your family.
  - (3) Discuss how other family needs must be considered in this plan.
- (c) Develop a written shopping strategy for the purchase identified in requirement 1a.
  - (1) Determine the quality of the item or service (using consumer publications or ratings systems). (discuss in the workbook or a word document)
  - (2) Comparison shop for the item. Find out where you can buy the item for the best price. (Provide prices from at least two different price sources.) Call around; study ads. Look for a sale or discount coupon. Consider alternatives. Can you buy the item used? Should you wait for a sale? (discuss in the workbook or a word document)

2. Do the following:

- (a) Prepare a budget reflecting your expected income (allowance, gifts, wages), expenses, and savings for a period of 13 consecutive weeks. **HINT: Use the Sample Budget Plan in the workbook at the bottom of the page:** <http://www.usscouts.org/mb/mb011.asp>  
It looks like this:

Sample Budget Plan

Income Sources	Month 1			Month 2			Month 3		
	Budget	Actual	Over/ Under	Budget	Actual	Over/ Under	Budget	Actual	Over/ Under
Allowance									
Gifts									
Wages									
Other									
<b>Income Totals</b>									

(b) Compare expected income with expected expenses.

- (1) If expenses exceed budget income, determine steps to balance your budget.



creating an annual patrol plan with additional activities not already included in the troop annual plan. Discuss your completed project plan with your merit badge counselor. [NOTE: You do not have to actually conduct the project. This is a planning exercise only.] (discuss in the workbook or a word document) **HINT: See the examples at the end of the workbook**

- (a) Define the project. What is your goal?
- (b) Develop a timeline for your project that shows the steps you must take from beginning to completion.
- (c) Describe your project.
- (d) Develop a list of resources. Identify how these resources will help you achieve your goal.
- (e) Develop a budget for your project.

10. Do the following: (discuss in the workbook or a word document)

- (a) Choose a career you might want to enter after high school or college graduation. Discuss with your counselor the needed qualifications, education, skills, and experience.
- (b) Explain to your counselor what the associated costs might be to pursue this career, such as tuition, school or training supplies, and room and board. Explain how you could prepare for these costs and how you might make up for any shortfall.