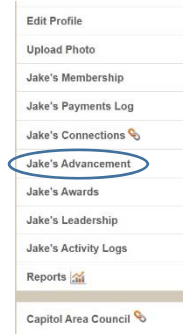


Starting New Merit Badges

Log into Scoutbook (<https://scoutbook.scouting.org/>)

Go to the scout's main page.

Scroll to the bottom and click on the link that says "<scout name> Advancement".



On the Advancement screen (after the scout's rank information), click on "Start Another Merit Badge".



At the bottom of the next screen click "Start a Merit Badge" to continue.

Starting a Merit Badge

- 1 Research a Badge**


Our **References section** contains a listing of every merit badge available including related videos, pictures, and comments by other Scouts and Scouters.

Have Jake discover which badges the Scout is most interested in. Have scout make a special note which ones are Eagle Scout required and focus on what scout needs to advance to the next rank.
- 2 Get a Signed Blue Card**

Jake can start on this badge right away however scout must meet with their Scoutmaster and get a signed blue card before working with a counselor.

A few merit badges have certain restrictions, but otherwise any registered Scout or qualified Venturer or Sea Scout may work on any of them at any time. Before the Scout begins working with a merit badge counselor, however, they are to have a discussion with their unit leader. That a discussion has been held is indicated by the unit leader's signature on the Application for Merit Badge, No. 34124, commonly called the "blue card."

7.0.0.3 - BSA Guide to Advancement


- 3 Work with a Merit Badge Counselor**

The Scoutmaster will give Jake a name of at least one registered adult counselor that is qualified for the specific merit badge. This counselor is the **only authorized person** who can approve and sign off on each requirement. It is Jake's responsibility to contact the counselor. You must have another person with you at each meeting with the merit badge counselor. This person must be either another registered adult or the parent/guardian of the Scout.

Some requirements need prior approval from the counselor but most scout can get started on right away.

Approved counselors may work with and pass any member, including their own son, ward, or relative.

7.0.1.4 - BSA Guide to Advancement
- 4 Invite Jake's Merit Badge Counselor to connect on Scoutbook**

When you upgrade to a **connectedFAMILY** plan, you can invite the merit badge counselor to connect on Scoutbook to review and approve Jake's work on this badge.

You see what they see. All the online communication that is done between Jake and counselor is also viewable by you. This makes Scoutbook a safe, secure and transparent method for advancement.

Start a Merit Badge

☐ Got it. Skip this page next time

From the list, select the merit badge you would like to start.

Choose a Merit Badge

This page contains the badges that you have not started yet. Use the search bar or click on the badge you want to start.

- American Business
- American Cultures
- American Heritage

The merit badge should now appear on merit badge list on the scout's Advancement page.

The screenshot shows the 'Start Another Merit Badge' interface. At the top, there are tabs for 'By Name' and 'By Date'. Below this is a section titled 'Jake's Merit Badges' with a list of three merit badges: 'Communication' (Version 2014), 'Cit. in World' (Version 2015), and 'Pers. Fitness' (Version 2020). Each badge has a checkbox on the left and a blue circular icon with a right arrow on the right. The 'Communication' badge also shows 'Unit leader signature: Annette Royal'.

The scout is now able to begin work on the merit badge however the scout will need to let their Patrol ASM (or a similar leader) know they are going to work on the merit badge. The Patrol ASM (or similar leader) will update the "Initial Unit Leader Signature". This adds the date to the merit badge.

The screenshot shows the 'Personal Fitness MB Counselor' page. It includes a red 'Invite Counselor' button. Below this is a section titled 'Personal Fitness MB Requirements (2020-2022)' with a list of requirements: 'Initial Unit Leader Signature' (with a 'No' status and a right arrow), 'Print Blue Cards' (with a blue card icon and a right arrow), 'Percent Completed' (with a blue circular icon and a right arrow), and '1. Do the following:' (with a sub-item '(a) Before completing requirements 2 through 9, have your health-care practitioner give you a physical examination, using the Scout medical examination form. Explain the following:').

Printing A Blue Card

If the scout needs the actual paper blue card, the scout can print that out themselves. On the Advancement page you will see the list of the scout's merit badges. Select the one you would like to print. On the merit badge page click "Print Blue Cards" and follow the instructions.

The screenshot shows the 'Personal Fitness MB Requirements (2020-2022)' page. The 'Initial Unit Leader Signature' field now shows 'signed by Annette Royal' and a date of '1/10/22'. The 'Print Blue Cards' and 'Percent Completed' fields remain the same as in the previous screenshot.

Completing A Merit Badge

The scout can select a merit badge counselor from the list of counselors and then works directly with the counselor to complete the merit badge. Troop merit badge counselors will sign off completions directly into Scoutbook. If completing a non-Eagle merit badge outside the troop, such as at a camp or class, the completed blue card can be submitted directly to the Advancement Chair. All Eagle merit badges need to be reviewed with the Troop merit badge counselor for final sign off even if requirements are completed at a camp or class.