



# T52 NEWS



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<https://troop52lakeway.us>



## 2022 Summer of High Adventure

It has been a great summer for all the scouts in Troop 52. I hope that whether you went to Philmont, Northern Tier, Summit Bechtel Reserve, or Camp San Isabel that you made some incredible memories. Wrap up all those merit badges and rank advancements you've been working on. We have a couple of meetings left before our Court of Honor on August 8.

## Troop Meeting – July 25, 2022 – 7:00 pm – Emmaus

At this next meeting I am planning to use it for rank advancement for kids that need things signed off before Court of Honor. For the kids that don't need rank advancements we can play football or some other game. I can bring a football to the meeting.

Nicholas Royal – SPL

Also, Mr. Ezell will finish the Scouting Heritage Merit Badge with those who went to Philmont. Mrs. Becker will help finish the American Cultures Merit Badge for those who attended the first Afghan families service event. For anything else, please remember to email either Mrs. Royal for SMC or your merit badge counselor in advance to set appointments. Do not wait until the meeting to ask.



### **Court of Honor – August 8, 2022 – 7:00 pm – Emmaus**

We will be holding the next Troop 52 Court of Honor on Monday, August 8th at 7:00 pm at Emmaus. The troop holds a COH twice a year to recognize scouts who have earned merit badges and advanced in rank since the last COH. Many of our scouts attended summer camp and earned a lot of merit badges and rank advancement since our last Court of Honor in January. The cutoff date for completing merit badges and rank advancement is Monday, August 1st.

If scouts have any questions about their rank advancement or merit badge completion, they should review their [scoutbook.scouting.org](https://scoutbook.scouting.org) account or check with Advancement Chairs Mr. Bates and Mrs. Royal.

We are in need of scouts to participate in the COH by reading names for credit toward the Communication merit badge. Please contact Mrs. Dawson if you would like a speaking part.



### **Trail to First Class Activities**

August 6, Lakeway City Park, upper pavilion level – Knot-fest! Mastering all your required rank-knots.

September 10 Lakeway City Park, lower lake level – Canoeing

October 8 Lakeway City Park, upper pavilion

November 10 Lakeway City Park, upper pavilion

December 14 Lakeway City Park, upper pavilion

Each month Mr. Schulenberg will be hosting Trail to First Class workshops at Lakeway City Park. Beginning on April 9, these workshops will take place on the second Saturday of every month from 9-11 AM at the upper pavilion. We will focus on rank advancement skills and knowledge from Scout through First Class. All scouts are welcome to join in, to listen, learn, and participate. For the older scouts, this is an opportunity to earn rank advancement by helping to lead these sessions by demonstration the EDGE method.

During these 2 hour sessions we will work together through each of the requirements in Scout, Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class, including some of the more challenging activities such as first aid, knots, fire building, nature hikes, and the physical fitness requirements. Our goal is to have fun and learn from each other.

Please see the Troop Calendar for workshop details.



**Electronics Lock-in – Lakeway Church – Friday, August 12, 2022, 6:00 pm – Saturday, 8:00 am**

Scouts, it is almost time for the annual electronics lock-in. Scouts are permitted to bring their electronic devices and stay up all night playing games. We will serve pizza and drinks. Scouts may only bring age and scout appropriate games for play. Inappropriate games or internet content will be disallowed and the scout will be asked to leave. This event is open to Webelos scouts interested in joining Troop 52, but Webelos will depart at 10:00 pm Friday night. Please RSVP on Scoutbook so we know how much pizza to order. The cost is \$10 to cover pizza. Please pay on the troop website under the store tab. Webelos may attend for free.



**SERVICE PROJECT**

**Afghani Refugee Families and American Cultures Merit Badge – August 13, 2022, 3:15 – 6:30 pm – South Austin Community Center, 1100 Cumberland Rd.**

Please RSVP on the troop calendar so we know how much food we will need. Our second event will be similar to the first. We will be playing games and grilling chicken. The Afghan families will be bringing side dishes. Please wear your Class B shirt. The Ladies of Charity would like a group photo of everyone.



**Geocaching Merit Badge – Go find it!**

Hello, this is Ethan Ezell. I am working on the Geocaching Merit Badge. For one of the requirements, I have hidden a geocache for all of you to find. To the first person who finds it, there will be a shiny Troop 52 sticker inside. The name of the cache is Rocky Raccoon. Here is a link: [https://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC9XGKX\\_rocky-raccoon](https://www.geocaching.com/geocache/GC9XGKX_rocky-raccoon)



**The following two articles on merit badges and rank advancement originally ran on January 30, 2022. They are being published again here for those new scouts and families. These policies are in effect for the upcoming Court of Honor on August 8, 2022.**

## **Merit Badges**

Scouts and parents,

We would like to clarify policies and procedures for merit badges from both the BSA and Troop 52. Several questions have come up. Scouts, parents, and counselors should take note of these instructions.

The final word on advancement is called the BSA Guide to Advancement. It is here:  
<https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33088.pdf>

Merit badges start on page 40.

These are the Troop 52 policies and procedures.

### **I. Blue Cards**

Scouts should obtain a Blue Card by requesting one through Scoutbook. In the case of the troop conducting a merit badge at a troop meeting, a class, or activity at a campout, then the scout will not need to individually ask for a blue card. The merit badge counselor will be responsible for taking attendance and giving proper credit. For other merit badges, it is still a good practice to obtain a blue card and contact a counselor before beginning work on any merit badge in case there are questions. There are exceptions for doing work without getting a blue card first.

The Guide to Advancement says at 7.0.0.3:

“Even though Scouts may benefit from reviewing requirements with a merit badge counselor before getting to work, a Scout may begin the effort on any badge at any time after registering in Scouts BSA or becoming a qualified Venturer or Sea Scout. It is the counselor’s decision whether to accept work or activities completed prior to any meeting with the unit leader or the merit badge counselor. Common sense should prevail, however. For example, nights already camped as a Scout in Scouts BSA or as a qualified Venturer or Sea Scout, or coins or stamps already collected, would count toward their respective badges.”

Some items would clearly be called into question for proper credit. For example, tasks such as trips, camping, or hikes before joining scouts might not count for credit (ex: in third grade a class field trip visited the Capitol, a scout went camping with his parents on their own, etc.). Some merit badge requirements state “with the approval of your counselor” or other similar language. In cases like this, a scout should seek the approval from the merit badge counselor prior to doing the activity. In all cases, read the requirement.

### **II. Worksheets**

Worksheets are a good idea, but are not required. The worksheet is there to assist the scout. Sitting for a merit badge is not a test. It's a review. It is the merit badge counselor's judgment to decide if the scout has met the requirements. Some scouts have all the info in their heads. Some need the paper. Either is fine. We strongly suggest using the worksheets because it lets the scout see the list of requirements right in front of him as the instructor is teaching. It gives them a place to take notes. Also, many requirements say "make a list," "keep a chart," "track and record," or "explain" something. That is what the worksheet allows the scout to do. Likewise, if the requirement says "demonstrate" or "discuss" then the scout should demonstrate it by doing it or discussing it out loud with the counselor. Maybe there are notes on the worksheet to reference during the discussion. Maybe there aren't. Again, either is fine. A merit badge counselor is not allowed to add requirements to a merit badge, so requiring the worksheet be filled out would be adding a requirement. However, if a scout can't discuss it (whether looking at the paper or by talking about it) then there can't be any credit for doing the work.

The Guide to Advancement says:

#### 7.0.4.8 Unofficial Worksheets and Learning Aids

"Worksheets and other materials that may be of assistance in earning merit badges are available from a variety of places including unofficial sources on the internet and even troop libraries. Use of these aids is permissible as long as the materials can be correlated with the current requirements that Scouts must fulfill. Completing "worksheets" may suffice where a requirement calls for something in writing, but this would not work for a requirement where the Scout must discuss, tell, show, or demonstrate, etc. Note that Scouts shall not be required to use these learning aids in order to complete a merit badge."

### III. Eagle Required Merit Badges

The troop policy has always been that an Eagle-required merit badge taken outside the troop (such as summer camp or online classes) must be reviewed by a Troop 52 counselor to make sure that the requirements were satisfied. It does not mean re-teaching it or repeating work. It's a quality control exercise. We want earning Eagle Scout in Troop 52 to be truly meaningful and challenging. In the past, we have on several occasions found requirements at camp or online classes signed off where the scout clearly did not do the task and simply sat in a merit badge class with a dozen others and did not participate. That is not what we want to accomplish.

Here are some examples:

The Cooking merit badge says "plan a menu," "create a shopping list," and "cook the meals," etc. It does not say "watch" or "assist" or "learn about." That's why we want the boy to be grubmaster for a campout with his patrol from start to finish, not take part in a group lesson or sharing the same tasks among multiple scouts. This is an example where the worksheets provide an excellent resource for writing down menus and shopping lists.

Citizenship in the Nation requirement #4 says discuss several documents, including the Constitution. A scout who took an online class and did not participate other than listening has not discussed it. A scout cannot discuss something until he's read it, so the merit badge counseling session should not be the first time the scout has considered the information. Again, some notes on a worksheet would help in this situation when meeting with the counselor. If they haven't read the Constitution, they can't very well discuss it. We don't expect them to memorize it or understand it the way a lawyer would.

Why do we require Eagle-required merit badges taken at camp or outside the troop be reviewed? There have been specific examples of Environmental Science and Citizenship in the Nation, which are two difficult badges, taken at camp. One class for Environmental Science completely omitted any discussion of bees for #2G, but the counselor signed that the boys did it anyway. For Citizenship in the Nation, requirement #8 says for the scouts to find out who YOUR two senators and House rep are, then write to

one and show the letter and any response to the counselor. The summer camp counselor simply had all the scouts write to a senator in New Mexico because that's where camp was. When they got back from camp, no one had a copy of his letter, no one could remember who he wrote, and they still didn't know who their Texas senators and rep were. That's not what the requirement says to do, so all that time taking that class was wasted.

Additionally, we don't want scouts to sit with their parent who is also the merit badge counselor if it's Eagle-required. We have multiple counselors and it encourages the boy to learn to relate to a different adult.

The Guide to Advancement says at 7.0.0.3:

“Counselors may work with and pass any member, including their own children, wards, or relatives. Nevertheless, we often teach young people the importance of broadening horizons. Scouts meeting with counselors beyond their families and beyond even their own units are doing that. They will benefit from the perspectives of many “teachers” and will learn more as a result. They should be encouraged to reach out.”

#### **IV. Non-Eagle Required Merit Badges**

Non-Eagle required merit badges taken at camp do not require the scout to sit for the badge if the whole thing was completed at camp. For example, if a scout takes Canoeing merit badge at camp for a week and comes back with a completed, signed blue card, we accept it. No sitting. The counselor at camp is saying the scout passed. Since it is not Eagle-required, there is no extra review unless the badge is only partially done. If it's only partially done, the scout would need to make an appointment with a merit badge counselor to show the completed work or make a plan to do so.

A scout's parent who is teaching a non-Eagle required merit badge is fine to sign off requirements if it's part of a class being taught to a group. If it's not a part of a group lesson or if it is an individual session, then we would prefer it if the scout sat with another counselor just to give the scout a better experience in relating to multiple adults. We would not prohibit the parent sitting with him if there are no other counselors available.

Hopefully, this clears things up. If you have questions about the merit badge program, please ask Mr. Ezell.



#### **New Troop 52 Advancement Process**

Scouts and parents,

As of January 1, 2022, we are following this process for rank advancement. Please take note.

Life and Eagle Scouts (as well as ASMs) will still physically sign books. Upon completing all rank requirements, scouts will go to their designated ASM for their patrol to show their books for verification. The ASM will check off items online in Scoutbook because that is the official record that BSA uses. At troop meetings, the Advancement Coordinator (Mrs. Royal) will take names from boys and set up appointments for a Scoutmaster Conference (SMC) and Board of Review (BOR) for the boy asking for one. They can be done at meetings or campouts. Ideally,

SMCs will be done by one of the ASMs at large, especially Star and Life. The Scoutmaster will continue to do all Eagle SMCs.

BORs will be done among committee members and parents who are not ASMs. We would like to avoid the same ASM doing SMCs for the same boy for multiple ranks since we want the boys to learn how to deal with multiple adults. The Advancement Chair (Mr. Bates) and/or Coordinator (Mrs. Royal) marks as complete in Scoutbook for the next Court of Honor.

Merit badge blue cards will be requested by scouts through Scoutbook.

When we receive new scouts at Crossover, the ASMs for each patrol can help welcome the new boys to their patrols and help mentor the new parents and answer their questions. We will pair those parents with an ASM to assist as new parent mentors.

Each ASM for the patrols will serve that patrol for a year and then we will transition to newer ASMs as we gain new leaders. We realize that not everyone can make every meeting, so hopefully we will have enough ASMs at a meeting for coverage.

#### **Patrol ASMs - responsible for individual patrols**

Vamsee Konda - Red Cobras  
Greg Royal - Apaches  
Bryan Russell - Blue Wolves  
Ken Semph - Panthers  
Jeff Schneider - Sharks

#### **ASMs at Large - SMCs or SICs or other duties**

Randy Bogdon  
John Cottey - also shooting sports  
Reagan Evans - also climbing  
Matt Gomes - also shooting sports  
Patrick Gomes  
Todd Grovatt - also climbing and shooting sports  
Mike Johnsrud  
Alfredo Loredó - also religious emblems  
Ron Lugo  
Mike Pusey  
Ashwin Rao - also quartermaster and shooting sports  
Jim Schulenberg - also Trail to First Class and climbing  
Richard Wright - also shooting sports

#### **Committee Members**

Pete Chalfant - Committee Chair  
  
Tray Bates - Advancement Chair and Webmaster  
Jeff Beneski - Eagle Coordinator  
Josi Bogdon - Communications Coordinator and Photos  
Cara Cooper - Service Hours Coordinator

Victoria Dawson - Service Hours Coordinator  
 Bonnie Doggett - Committee member  
 John Doggett - Aquatics supervisor  
 Christy Hampton - Registrar  
 Hank Kelbaugh - Chartered Org Rep and Treasurer and OA Rep  
 Annette Royal - Advancement Coordinator  
 Nicolas Sfeir - Committee member

Scoutmaster – James Ezell



### **Summer Service Hour Opportunities**

This summer there are many opportunities to earn service hours from both Troop and Community projects. Here are the current service hour opportunities for June, July, and August.

### **Ongoing - Eagle Projects (Troop)**

There are quite a few Life Scouts in our troop who are working hard on their Eagle projects this summer and they will need your help. Be on the lookout for separate emails regarding these unique Eagle project opportunities this summer. Remember, someday you will need help from younger Scouts for your Eagle project - now is the time to *pay it forward!*

### **Saturday, August 27 (Community)**

Volunteer to help to set up, clean up, and manage the kids arts project for the Lakeway Cool Arts Show. The City of Lakeway Arts Committee would like to have at least 4 older Scouts volunteer for the upcoming Cool Arts Show on Saturday August 27, 2022 at the Lakeway Activity Center (105 Cross Creek, Lakeway). Scouts should be at least First Class and 13 years old for this event. You can volunteer for one or both shifts below. If you are interested, please contact Ms. Walters at [sarahwalters1974@yahoo.com](mailto:sarahwalters1974@yahoo.com). For more information about the Cool Arts Show, visit [lakewayartsdistrict.com](http://lakewayartsdistrict.com).

Shift 1 (4 Hours): 10am - 2pm (4 Scouts) - Help setup and kids art area

Shift 2 (4 Hours): 2pm - 6pm (4 Scouts) - Help kids art area and cleanup

### **Understanding Troop vs Community Service Hours**

Eagle projects are Troop-based and do not require pre-approval to get service credit. However, before embarking on any Community service hours project, remember to fill out the [Community Service Hours \(CSH\) form](#) to get approval from your patrol's ASM or a Service Hours Coordinator (Ms. Dawson or Ms. Cooper). You will also be required to have approval from the community representative in charge of the service project. The CSH form explains it all.

[Use this link to the download the Community Service Hours Form:](#)



<https://img1.wsimg.com/blobby/go/e9c78b66-b90a-463e-bd5d-f56d564ec7e4/downloads/T52-CommunityServiceHoursForm.pdf?ver=1650645685582>



### **Summit Bechtel Reserve High Adventure – June 13-21, 2023**

We have at least one spot available (we may be able to add more) for high adventure at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in West Virginia the summer of 2023. Please contact Josi Bogdon at 512.971.8141 or [easonj@sbcglobal.net](mailto:easonj@sbcglobal.net) for more information.



**Troop 52 is busy this summer! Please use these photo albums to view and upload photos from our events:**

#### **Court of Honor (upcoming)**

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/xbZmLXKKma86BrUe7>

#### **Environmental Science Merit Badge Workshop (upcoming)**

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/AkXijM6htso9VrgT6>

#### **Summit at Bechtel Reserve**

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/n7v2rm2YGkmAanx69>

#### **Northern Tier Trek**

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/G4GcAhQJa5f8e1XV8>

#### **National Weather Service Office Visit**

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/gA5JXPxj28zzmyB37>

#### **Summer Camp at San Isabel**

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/zX1bY5FwD5J2Hv7s6>

#### **Philmont Trek**

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/nJZq4YJpbiF79xXd9>

#### **IOLS Training**

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/TgQc6hkRAcfNs5Ye8>

#### **Life Scout Party**

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/qaZahJBi1yEsZw1w9>

#### **TTFC Workshop**

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/6jnYskBtk2nXCpwH8>

#### **Troop Blog**

If you need to check for announcements on the troop web site, we do have a blog that gets updated by Tray Bates. You can access it here: <https://troop52lakeway.us/blog>

**Remember!**

