

ADVANCEMENT

PLANNING FOR MERIT BADGES AT CAMP

Please review the Merit Badge list to see which merit badges are available at Camp Tahquitz. Please note any special prerequisites that should be accomplished before coming to camp, as well as suggestions for the general age and ability level of each badge.

MERIT BADGES AND THE SCOUTMASTER

As a Scoutmaster, you play a key role in helping Scouts plan a memorable week at camp. While the Scouts should be able to plan their own activities, you can help them by counseling their choices.

Here are a few items that you may want to remember as you help your scouts plan their program:

1. Several merit badges can only be earned if some of the requirements are completed before coming to camp. If they are not completed, or if a scout fails to complete any requirement at camp, he will be given a partial card listing those portions that he satisfied.
2. Consider the Scout's age, maturity, and skill level when looking at a merit badge.
3. Preparation ahead of time is a must! **Please be sure to read the book!**
4. It is generally not wise for a scout, especially a young scout, to work on more than two or three merit badges during one week.
5. Consider the distance between program areas. To go between the most distant program areas may require a 20 minute walk. Please see suggested times at the end of this section for planning how far apart the program areas are.

WAYS TO EARN MERIT BADGES AT TAHQUITZ

FORMAL CLASS SESSIONS

Many scouts are not familiar with camp-related merit badges. For them, the most effective way for them to earn the merit badge requirements is through established class sessions. These take place throughout the mornings, and are designed to help take a scout through the various parts of the merit badge requirements under the direction of a skilled and dedicated staff member.

Scouts will earn the merit badges by completing the requirements, not by attending all the classes.

MENTOR BADGES

Class sessions are not required for merit badges. If your scouts are fairly confident about the requirements, they may make an appointment directly with a program area when they arrive at camp.

While a scout may complete any badge under this process, Mentor Badges have **NO REGULAR SCHEDULED SESSIONS**, and are most appropriate for older, self-motivated scouts able to work independently.

SUGGESTED PREPARATION (e.g., PRE-REQUISITES)

Please review the merit badge chart in CampMaster. Certain merit badges have requirements that cannot be completed (or which are very difficult to complete) during a week in the mountains. If possible, have scouts complete these requirements before they arrive at camp.

PROJECTS NEEDED FOR BADGES

Some merit badges require scouts to complete various projects (e.g., arrow kits for archery, woodcarving and basketry kits for craft badges). Since they will be required to complete these projects to earn the badges, materials for these projects will be available at the Trading Post. However, if they use their own material we ask that they do not start working on the projects until they arrive at camp.

ARCHERY/RIFLE/SHOTGUN MERIT BADGES

The shooting sports merit badges can be worked on at Camp Tahquitz, but they are **very difficult** and require a great deal of **extra practice** and a high level of **competency**. Please realize that they require the scouts to reach a minimum shooting score to complete the badge.

Shotgun Shooting merit badge requires some degree of upper body strength, as so we hope that you would discourage younger scouts from attempting this badge.

Completion of Archery requires scouts to build an arrow: they should bring an unfinished arrow to camp, or buy an arrow kit at the camp's Trading Post. For a better chance at completion of any shooting sports merit badge, scouts should be prepared to spend extra time practicing their shooting skills.

NATURE MERIT BADGE THREE-YEAR ROTATION

Due to the large number of merit badges available at Nature, and to provide opportunities for returning scouts, we have started a rotational program for our nature merit badges. Every year we will offer sessions in core merit badges, as well as a yearly theme for related merit badges.

2019	2020	2021
<i>Theme: Earth as our Home</i>	<i>Theme: Sustainability</i>	<i>Theme: Sky & Space Above</i>
Environmental Science	Environmental Science	Environmental Science
Mammals	Mammals	Mammals
Nature	Nature	Nature
Reptile/Amphibian Study	Reptile/Amphibian Study	Reptile/Amphibian Study
PLANT SCIENCE	ENERGY	ASTRONOMY
GEOLOGY	SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION	SPACE EXPLORATION
FORESTRY	FISH & WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT	WEATHER

TRAIL TO FIRST CLASS

This program is designed to help scouts earn their basic scouting skills. All scouts must bring their Boy Scout handbook with them for each session as the staff will sign off completed requirements

There are three "tracks" for the trail to first class; each is designed to be flexible to meet the needs of all scouts in your troop.

FULL INSTRUCTIONAL SESSIONS

In the morning, there are week-long instructional session where we will go over most of the requirements for the rank advancement. Every day will focus on a different topic. This is scheduled through CampMaster, just as a merit badge class would be scheduled.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:00	Scout/Tenderfoot				
10:00	Second Class				
11:00	First Class				

DROP-IN SESSIONS

The scout who only needs a few requirements for the rank can drop by the Outdoor Skills area in the afternoon where he can focus on those one or two requirements that he needs assistance with.

TROOP TRAINING

We can work with your troop so that they can help teach these rank requirements throughout the year – no need to have rank advancement limited to just summer camp!

BOARDS OF REVIEW

One of the most vital steps in the advancement process is the Board of Review. Many troops prefer to conduct their own Boards of Review in their campsite, or when they get back home. However, the Camp Tahquitz commissioners will be available to conduct Boards of Review for any troop interested in taking advantage of this opportunity.

We strongly encourage a troop to help with these Boards of Review – this is a great opportunity for new parents and committee members to participate in a well-run Board of Review. After participating in a Board of Review with our experienced commissioner staff, they will feel confident in their own ability to conduct effective Board of Reviews for the troop when they return home.

RANK ADVANCEMENT RECOGNITION

At the Friday Night campfire, we will call out the names of each scout who has completed a rank advancement while at camp. Please be sure to let the Camp office know by Friday afternoon of any scout who you would like recognized at the campfire.

MERIT BADGE INSTRUCTIONAL SESSIONS AVAILABLE

Please note: additional classes may be added or removed based on demand			A 8:00	B 9:00	C 10:00	D 11:00
GOOD FOR FIRST TIME SCOUTS	BASKETRY	Craft Lodge	X	X	X	X
	FORESTRY <i>(NEW FOR 2019!)</i>	Nature Center		X		X
	LEATHER-WORK	Craft Lodge	X	X	X	X
	MAMMALS	Nature Center	X	X	X	X
	NATURE	Nature Center	X	X	X	X
	REPTILE & AMPHIBIAN	Nature Center	X	X	X	X
	WOOD CARVING	Craft Lodge	X	X	X	X
GESGREAT FOR RETURNING SCOUTS	ART	Craft Lodge	X	X	X	X
	CAMPING	Outdoor Skills	X	X	X	X
	CANOEING <i>(NEW!)</i>	Aquatics (Lake)	X	X	X	X
	ENVIRONMENTAL -SCIENCE	Nature Center	X	X	X	X
	FIRST AID	Outdoor Skills	X	X	X	X
	GEOLOGY <i>(NEW FOR 2019)</i>	Nature Center	X		X	
	KAYAKING <i>(NEW!)</i>	Aquatics (Lake)				
	ORIENTEERING	Outdoor Skills	X	X	X	X
	PLANT SCIENCE <i>(NEW FOR 2019!)</i>	Nature Center	X	X	X	X
	SEARCH AND RESCUE <i>(NEW FOR 2019!)</i>	Climbing Center	X	X		
	SCOUTING HERITAGE <i>(NEW FOR 2019)</i>	--check at camp--		X	X	
	SWIMMING	Aquatics (Pool)	X	X	X	X
	WILDERNESS SURVIVAL	Climbing Center	X	X	X	X
	WOODWORK	Craft Lodge		X		X
CHALLENGING FOR OLDER SCOUTS	ARCHERY	Shooting Sports	X	X	X	X
	CLIMBING	Climbing Center	X	X	X	X
	HORSEMANSHIP	Wrangler			X	
	INDIAN LORE	Craft Lodge	X	X	X	X
	LIFESAVING	Aquatics (Pool)	X	X	X	X
	PIONEERING	Outdoor Skills	X	X	X	X
	RIFLE	Shooting Sports	X	X	X	X
	ROWING <i>(NEW)</i>	Aquatics (Lake)	X	X	X	X
	SHOTGUN	Shooting Sports	X	X	X	X
MENTOR	ASTRONOMY	Nature eCenter	<p>There are NO formal class sessions for these badges.</p> <p>However, when they arrive at camp those scouts who are prepared and ready to complete the requirements may make an appointment with the area director on Sunday afternoon to arrange for individual Merit Badge counselling sessions.</p> <p>These sessions are usually in the afternoon, and are may be limited by the number of overall scouts at camp.</p>			
	BACKPACKING	Climbing Center				
	BIRD STUDY	Nature Center				
	COOKING	Outdoor Skills				
	ENERGY	Nature Center				
	FISH AND WILDLIFE	Nature Center				
	HIKING	Climbing Center				
	INSECT STUDY	Nature Center				
	PLANT SCIENCE	Nature Center				
	SOIL/WATER CONSERVATION	Nature Center				
	SPACE EXPLORATION	Nature Center				
	SUSTAINABILITY	Nature Center				
WEATHER	Nature Center					
	ANIMAL SCIENCE/HORSEMANSHIP	WRANGLER	SEE WRANGLER PROGRAM			

TIME/DISTANCE GUIDELINES

Please use the following ONLY as a general guideline – obviously not all scouts (or scouters) walk at the same pace!

travel time, in minutes Distance, in feet Distance, in miles	Cope Shed 6396'	Commissary 6452'	Health Lodge Signs 6368'	Nature Lodge 6459'	Pool 6470'	Rifle 6273'	Scoutcraft 6484'	Shotgun 6293'	Tower shed 6386'	Trading Post 6482'
ALL ARE ESTIMATES-YOUR MILEAGE MAY VARY!										
Cope Shed 6396'		12 min. 2,327 ft 0.44 mi.	6 min. 1,185 ft 0.22 mi.	7 min. 1,397 ft 0.26 mi.	13 min. 2,408 ft 0.46 mi.	13 min. 2,670 ft 0.51 mi.	11 min. 2,061 ft 0.39 mi.	11 min. 2,283 ft 0.43 mi.	2 min. 268 ft 0.05 mi.	9 min. 1,740 ft 0.33 mi.
Commissary 6452'	12 min. 2,327 ft 0.44 mi.		6 min. 1,142 ft. 0.22mi.	2 min. 462 ft. 0.09mi.	4 min. 697 ft. 0.13mi.	13 min. 2,628 ft. 0.5mi.	5 min. 997 ft. 0.19mi.	11 min. 2,241 ft. 0.42mi.	11 min. 2,127 ft. 0.4mi.	2 min. 383 ft. 0.07mi.
Health Lodge Signs 6368'	6 min. 1,185 ft 0.22 mi.	6 min. 1,142 ft. 0.22mi.		8 min. 1604 ft. 0.31 mi.	9 min. 1839 ft. 0.35 mi.	8 min. 1485 ft. 0.28 mi.	13 min. 2640 ft. 0.51 mi.	6 min. 1098 ft. 0.21 mi.	5 min. 917 ft. 0.17 mi.	8 min. 1526 ft. 0.29 mi.
Nature Lodge 6459'	7 min. 1,397 ft 0.26 mi.	2 min. 462 ft. 0.09mi.	8 min. 1604 ft. 0.31 mi.		3 min. 581 ft. 0.11 mi.	15 min. 3,089 ft. 0.59 mi.	5 min. 928 ft. 0.18 mi.	13 min. 2,702 ft. 0.51 mi.	8 min. 1,665 ft. 0.32 mi.	2 min. 338 ft. 0.06 mi.
Pool 6470'	13 min. 2,408 ft 0.46 mi.	4 min. 697 ft. 0.13mi.	9 min. 1839 ft. 0.35 mi.	3 min. 581 ft. 0.11 mi.		25 min. 5,079 ft. 0.96 mi.	2 min. 348 ft. 0.07 mi.	23 min. 4,692 ft. 0.89 mi.	14 min. 2,676 ft. 0.51 mi.	2 min. 313 ft. 0.06 mi.
Rifle 6273'	13 min. 2,670 ft 0.51 mi.	13 min. 2,628 ft. 0.5mi.	8 min. 1485 ft. 0.28 mi.	15 min. 3,089 ft. 0.59 mi.	25 min. 5,079 ft. 0.96 mi.		24 min. 4,731 ft. 0.9 mi.	4 min. 755 ft. 0.14 mi.	12 min. 2,402 ft. 0.45 mi.	15 min. 3,011 ft. 0.57 mi.
Scoutcraft 6484'	11 min. 2,061 ft 0.39 mi.	5 min. 997 ft. 0.19mi.	13 min. 2640 ft. 0.51 mi.	5 min. 928 ft. 0.18 mi.	2 min. 348 ft. 0.07 mi.	24 min. 4,731 ft. 0.9 mi.		21 min. 4,344 ft. 0.82mi.	12 min. 2,329 ft. 0.44mi.	3 min. 613 ft. 0.12mi.
Shotgun 6293'	11 min. 2,283 ft 0.43 mi.	11 min. 2,241 ft. 0.42mi.	6 min. 1098 ft. 0.21 mi.	13 min. 2,702 ft. 0.51 mi.	23 min. 4,692 ft. 0.89 mi.	4 min. 755 ft. 0.14 mi.	21 min. 4,344 ft. 0.82mi.		10 min. 2,015 ft. 0.38mi.	13 min. 2,624 ft. 0.5mi.
Tower shed 6386'	2 min. 268 ft 0.05 mi.	11 min. 2,127 ft. 0.4mi.	5 min. 917 ft. 0.17 mi.	8 min. 1,665 ft. 0.32 mi.	14 min. 2,676 ft. 0.51 mi.	12 min. 2,402 ft. 0.45 mi.	12 min. 2,329 ft. 0.44mi.	10 min. 2,015 ft. 0.38mi.		10 min. 2,008 ft. 0.38mi.
Trading Post 6482'	9 min. 1,740 ft 0.33 mi.	2 min. 383 ft. 0.07mi.	8 min. 1526 ft. 0.29 mi.	2 min. 338 ft. 0.06 mi.	2 min. 313 ft. 0.06 mi.	15 min. 3,011 ft. 0.57 mi.	3 min. 613 ft. 0.12mi.	13 min. 2,624 ft. 0.5mi.	10 min. 2,008 ft. 0.38mi.	