

2010 Advancement Programs & BadgeTracker

Advancement at camp is the same as advancement at home.

Boards of Review are the responsibility of the unit – completing requirements at camp does not change that responsibility.

All Camp Staff Merit Badge Counselors have been approved by the Council Advancement Committee to instruct their particular merit badge. They do not, however, award merit badges. That is the responsibility of the Troop Committee. Counselors only certify what they instruct and review with the Scouts. We do not except letters or statements from leaders or other merit badge counselors on requirements completed prior to camp.

Camp Bonner does not use blue merit badge cards to record requirement completions. Instead, we utilize our own carbon MCR advancement forms to record progress. Using this form enables the camp/council to retain a permanent record of all merit badge and program requirements completed. If your unit or council requires the use of blue merit badge cards you are asked to complete the information section and bring them to camp with you. Blue Cards should be given to the Program Director no later than Monday morning following breakfast. Blue Cards will not be accepted after that time. No blue cards will be provided to East Carolina Council units.

Troop advancement records are available for review on Friday at 4:00pm in the reception center. Troops that depart Friday before that time will have their copy of the records mailed to the leader of record at the **close of camp**. The camp staff cannot be held responsible for incorrect information for units that leave camp before the 4:00 PM paperwork review.

A Successful Week at Camp

It is important to note how your “scouts” measure a successful week at camp. It may differ from the measurements of adult leaders. Some scouts will want to spend time earning as many merit badges as possible. While others may be happy exploring the 380 acres of Camp Bonner. Most will fall in the middle of those two scenarios. Unit leaders can build a better understanding of their scouts by remembering that summer camp is more than just earning badges.

Helping Your Scouts

When helping your scouts determine their schedule, please note that some classes are one hour & some two (2) hours long. Some merit badges have prerequisite requirements that must be completed prior to camp. Some merit badges and programs carry an additional fee, age or rank requirement, prerequisites, or may be partial completions. These are listed in the program description for each area. Please take the time to review each program description.

Merit Badge Class Time and Attendance

All classes start on time (on the hour) and end 5-10 minutes before the next class period. Unit leaders will be informed of scouts who miss their class period. Scouts who miss two (2) class periods in a row will be dropped from the class. Friday morning is merit badge & program make-up day. Classes are cut in half to give scouts the opportunity to visit each area to complete any outstanding requirement.

Be Prepared for Class

In order to benefit from class time, Scouts should be reminded to bring pen/pencil and paper, as well as Merit Badge pamphlets to class with them. Merit Badge pamphlets are available at the Camp Trading Post.

Difficult Merit Badges

Some merit badges require much more “homework” or written reports than others. When reviewing the schedule with your scouts, please review these requirements. We place rank and age restrictions on certain badges and programs because experience has shown that those

badges are more difficult to earn by younger inexperienced scouts. We want your scout to have a successful week of camp.

Merit Badge Pamphlets and Requirement Books

All merit badge pamphlets for the badges covered at Camp Bonner are available for purchase at the Trading Post. Troops are encouraged to bring the latest edition of the pamphlets to camp. Each scout should have the pamphlets available. The latest edition/date of the merit badge pamphlets can be found in the *2009-2010 Boy Scout Requirements* pamphlet.

Block Scheduling

Block scheduling is defined when a unit leader schedules a large group of scouts for one particular merit badge during one time period. Please refrain from block scheduling Scouts.

Additional Merit Badge Opportunity

Any leader who wishes to instruct a merit badge not listed should inform the Program Director two weeks in advance so arrangements can be made.

Any unit leader who would like to "assist" with instructing a program should inform the Program Director during the check in process. Your assistance is welcomed!

Minimum and Maximum Participation

Certain activities have minimums and maximums participation in order for them to be offered during Summer Camp. All activities are set with a minimum (2) since there are no one-on-one instructions provided (a Youth Protection issue). Some instruction requires two participants or more to demonstrate requirements or achievements. COPE requires a minimum of six due to the belays throughout the course.

Venture Scouts in Camp

Many of the merit badge programs can be adjusted to help with core requirements for the Venture Bronze or Ranger Award. Let us know two week before your arrival if we can assist any Venture Scout with advancement opportunities.

Working with *BadgeTracker*

Troops should pre-register all scouts for either merit badge, instructional or a combination of both programs. The camp utilizes an on-line program system titled ***BadgeTracker***. The on-line system is the only means available to register scouts (and adults) for camp programs. Yes, in 2010 you will also be able to register adults for programs.

The on-line system will be available beginning January 1, 2010 or as soon as the 2010 program up-dates are completed and posted. Units that have pre-registered will be informed when the system is open for program registration.

On-line registration & changes for programs can be made up to the day your unit arrives at camp. *It is a real-time program!*

Failure to pre-register your scouts on-line will result in your unit having to work with the Program Director Sunday afternoon to develop your scout's weeklong program. A very time consuming process we would like to avoid.

As you work with the program you will notice that some activities are also available for adults. You are encouraged to register adults for activities and programs.

Remember that all programs are first-come, first served. The sooner you pre-register your scouts and made your program selections, the more opportunity you have to acquire the programs you need.

BadgeTracker is a very simple program to use if your unit and your Scouts are prepared. To prepare your scouts there are a few simple steps to take.

Down-load and distribute copies of three program reference charts to your Scouts;
Program & Merit Badge Instructional Schedule Reference Chart
Age, Rank Restrictions, Partial Completion Reference Chart
Twilight Activities Reference Chart

Utilizing these three charts, your scouts can determine (with your help) all the programs and activities they would like to participate in during camp.
Have them circle the activities/programs they would like to do during camp both on the Program & Merit Badge schedule and the Twilight Activities schedule. Pay close attention to the time slots for each class (noted as class A, B, C, D, etc.), any additional fees required or prerequisite for a particular class.

You are now set to pre-register your Scouts for summer programs!

As the system comes on-line you will be notified by email and given a password to access the program registration system. To avoid confusion, the access code should only be utilized by a leader who will be attending camp.

You will first be asked to complete the troop data page. Please fill in each block. It's important!

You will now be able to add the name & information data for each scout and begin to register them for programs. It's a simple process of clicking on the programs at the times that were reflected by the information the scouts have given you. The program will not let you mess up. If something does not work it's usually because the information inputted into the program for the scout prevents signing that scout up for a particular program.

Example:

If Joe Scout is 12 years old and a Tenderfoot Scout, those programs that require an age of 14 or First Class will not show on the program display selection for Joe.

or

If you are trying to select a class during a time period that Joe already has something scheduled.

or the program is full.

Keep in mind that you can only add the number of scouts that you have submitted the required pre-registration fees for. Refer to the Registration Section if you have questions. You will be able to add new scouts, edit existing records, or delete scouts who drop up till the day you arrive at camp. It's imperative that you keep your records as up-to-date as possible. We make a lot of decisions based on your input.

Have Fun!

If you have questions, send a note
tcopelan@bsamail.org