

Advancement in Camp

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 Merit Badge Counselors at camp have been approved by the Council Advancement Committee to instruct their merit badge. They do not, however, award merit badges. That is the responsibility of the Troop Committee. The 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 at the reception center. Troops that depart Friday night will have their records mailed to the leader of record at the close of camp. The camp staff cannot be held responsible for incorrect records for units that leave camp before the 4:00 PM paperwork review.

A Successful Week At Camp

It is important to note how the scout measures a “successful week at camp”. 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 camp is more than just earning badges.

Merit Badge Registration

Troops should pre-register each scout for either merit badge, instructional or a combination of both programs. The Snail-Mail Merit Badge/Program Registration Application is found forms/charts. This form should be used only if you **do not** have access to the internet. Otherwise, please access our on-line registration site to register for merit badges.

We will begin accepting hard-copy (those not pre-registering on-line) registration forms on March 1, 2008. Due to the popularity of some classes, registration is on a first come- first served basis. Hard copy class registrations must be received by the Program Director no later than two (2) weeks prior to your unit arriving at camp.

On-line registration for merit badges will close two weeks prior to your unit arriving at camp and no changes may be made until after your arrival.

Prior to June 1, snail-mail MB registrations should be sent to the Council Service Center.

After June 1, snail-mail MB registrations should be mailed to camp or faxed to 252-975-1133.

Failure to submit the required forms will result in your scouts having to attend the merit badge/program sign-up session Sunday night. Scouts who pre-registered but would like to make a program change must also attend the session on Sunday evening.

Helping Your Scouts

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

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 are 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 point out these requirements.

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 will need to have the pamphlets available. The latest edition/date of the merit badge pamphlets can be found in the *2007-2008 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 for one time period. Please refrain from block scheduling Scouts. Doing so only makes the classes larger which detracts from the effectiveness of the instruction.

Additional Merit Badge Opportunity

Any leader who wishes to instruct a merit badge not listed on the chart 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.

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 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.