

Recordkeeping, Verification Standards, and Dealing with  
Tricky Scouts

**MERIT BADGE  
COUNSELOR BRUSH-UP  
COURSE**

# Presenter

- ◎ Terry Robinson
  - District Activities Chair
  - I'm doing this for Woodbadge, so be nice.

# Youth Protection

- Required of all merit badge counselors
- Go to my [myscouting.org](https://myscouting.org) or contact Rob Scafidi for meat-space training.

# Update on Merit Badges

- ◎ All badges have been revised within the last 6 years.
  - Chuck old pamphlets
  - Scouts may finish under old requirements or start fresh
  - Usscouts.org – Best resource
  - Meritbadges.com – has instructor resources

# Basics

- ⦿ Check your registration
  - Roster updated over last year
  - May help all Scouts or just your unit
- ⦿ Contact info only goes directly to SMs
- ⦿ **YOU MAY STEP DOWN IF YOU DON'T HAVE THE TIME**

# Basics

- ① Adding a Merit Badge
  - Pile of new badges added like historic badges, Geocaching, Robotics, Scouting History, Scuba Diving and Inventing
  - Complete and return merit badge sheet to Tom DeShields to add badge
  - Review requirements before adding item

# Basics

- ⦿ How a Scout attempts a badge
  - Tells SM
  - SM finds instructor, tells Scout
  - Scout contacts counselor
  - First meeting, review requirements or Scout shows completed work
  - Update blue card as you go
  - Scout gets completed card
  - Scout receives patch at CoH

# Verifying Work

- ◎ Scouts must complete all requirements as written.
  - Look to verbs, don't fudge them.
- ◎ Scouts should present whole work where possible. Photograph, note, or other proof where not.
  - Scout's word or a Scoutmaster note will rarely suffice.



# Verifying Work

## ⦿ Testing

- Avoid term test
- Scouts may retry as many times as they wish
- There's no partial credit, all questions must be right to show competence
- Do not show results in front of group, let Scouts fail in private

# Recordkeeping

- ⦿ Blue card should be updated as requirements are completed
- ⦿ Large group sessions may involve an end-of-meeting “reconcile” to check everyone off
- ⦿ Scout’s responsibility to maintain records
  - Helpful to keep ledger or spreadsheet anyway

# Special Cases

## ⦿ Varieties

- Scout present against his will
- Learning difficulties

## ⦿ Exceptions to requirements

- NONE
- Not every Scout can earn every badge

# Special Cases

- ⦿ Dysgraphic Scouts (issues writing)
  - May dictate written requirements.
  - Do not let dictation turn into discussion.

# Special Cases

- ◎ Dyslexic Scouts (issues reading)
  - May consume audio version of required text, may be read to.
  - Most key documents that must be read (speeches, founding documents) can be found in audio online. Check [voxlibre.org](http://voxlibre.org) or [wikipedia.org](http://wikipedia.org).

# Special Cases

- ⦿ ADHD Scouts (issues with attention)
  - Change activities frequently
  - Ask periodic questions to maintain focus
  - Recognize that you may just have to pick another day or wait for a Scout to settle

# Special Cases

## ⦿ Authority Issues

- Give Scout blank work packet
- Allow Scout to provide all work done at some later point
- Remind Scout that he doesn't need to participate... but won't get the badge if he doesn't

# Special Cases

## ⦿ Slow Learners

- Provide materials ahead of time
- Do extra before rather than after to avoid embarrassment in front of group



# Special Cases

- Seeming impossibilities (hydrophobic trying Swimming)
  - Phrase in terms of what a Scout needs to be able to do, not the particular Scout can't do
  - Set a benchmark
  - Allow the Scout to fail unless he would be physically hurt by it