



News of the Troop #4



- √ **Merit Badge Counselor Procedures:** The following is an extract from the *soon to be published* troop by-laws. It is important that we follow these procedures to ensure nothing is dropped through the cracks plus we don't waste/inconvenience a valuable resource (i.e. our MB counselors).
- To earn merit badges the following sequential procedures shall be followed:
 - Obtain a merit badge application ("blue card") from the Troop Librarian and fill-in the personal information. The card must then be signed by the scoutmaster or an assistant scoutmaster showing his approval. This must occur prior to meeting with a counselor.
 - Review the District and Troop merit badge counselor lists kept by the troop librarian to select a counselor for your merit badge.
 - Contact the merit badge counselor and arrange meetings. The scout must contact and coordinate the meetings (this includes informing the counselor if you will be late or absent from a scheduled meeting). In compliance with BSA Youth Protection, all meetings must include 3 individuals. This could be the counselor and two scouts or the counselor, the scout, and another adult in the immediate vicinity.
 - Complete the merit badge requirements under the guidance of the counselor
 - Ensure the counselor signs the card verifying completion of all requirements; the counselor will retain their portion of the blue card.
 - Return the other two sections of the blue card to the scoutmaster or assistant scoutmaster and obtain his signature to indicate completion of the merit badge requirements. The scout will get back his portion of the blue card for his records.
 - The scoutmaster or assistant scoutmaster will give the completed blue card to the advancement chairman, who will be responsible for notifying the council and procuring the merit badge for award.
- √ **Merit Badge Counselors:** Having covered the procedures above, I also want to make a pitch for additional merit badge counselors, particularly for the Eagle required merit badges. While we have a number of stalwart counselors, the troop (and district) is always in the need for more.
- Though it might help, you don't need to be an expert in a merit badge subject - a hobby or knowledge in a subject is all you need. When volunteering, you can opt to be a counselor for only Troop 1983 or district-wide.
- To be a counselor you must be registered, complete the online Youth Protection Training and Merit Badge Counselor Orientation (online or in person). If interested, contact Dave Howard, Tom Feeney, or Dwight Reed. This is a great opportunity to interact with scouts and also support the troop in a very meaningful way.
- √ **A Change in Troop Leadership:** There are only a few things in life that we have absolutely no control over – one of them is getting older (even though some of us try). During the Dec 3 meeting Charlie Frederick will be stepping down as senior patrol leader because he turns 18 on Dec 2. We'll miss him as SPL. Matt Branton has agreed to step up and be acting SPL until our next troop elections. I'm sure we'll still see Charlie around the troop.