

# Prerequisites for Merit Badges

**Difficulty rankings are on a scale of 1-5 with 5 the most challenging. Prerequisites are from the 2008 Scout Requirements Handbook.**

Area & Badge	Difficulty	Pre-Requisites
<b>Aquatics</b>		
Canoeing	4	Be a swimmer
Lifesaving	5	1a, Swimming MB
Rowing	4	Be a swimmer
Small Boat Sailing	5	Be a swimmer
Swimming	4	Be a swimmer, 3
Whitewater	5	Be a swimmer, 3 Canoeing MB
BSA Lifeguard	5+	See p.32 of this Guide
<b>Shooting Sports</b>		
Archery	3	None (fee)
Rifle Shooting	4	None
Shotgun Shooting	5	None (fee)
<b>Nature-Ecology</b>		
Astronomy	4	5b, 6
Bird Study	5	5, 7
Environmental Science	5	None
Fishing	2	Proper gear (license if 16)
Fish & Wildlife Management	3	None
Fly-Fishing	5	Proper gear (license if 16)
Forestry	4	None
Geology	5	None
Insect Study	5	3, 7, 10, bring collection
Mammal Study	2	None
Nature	3	None (Fishing gear helpful)
Reptile & Amphibian Study	3	8
Soil & Water Conservation	3	None
Space Exploration	4	2, 5 (fee)
Weather	3	None
<b>Special Arts Program</b>		
Bugling	5	6, bring instrument
Citizenship in the World	5	14 yrs old+, 2, 4b, 4c, 7
Music	4	3
Theatre	2	1, 3
<b>Health &amp; Safety</b>		
*First Aid	3	2d -bring kit to camp -use p.289 in BS Handbook for expectations of kit contents

Area & Badge	Difficulty	Pre-Requisites
<b>Scoutcraft</b>		
*Backpacking	5	10, 11, backpack
Camping	4	9, bring a tent / backpack to camp
Cooking	5	7 -bring parent note
*Hiking	5	5, 6, 7
Orienteering	4	None
Pioneering	5	None
*Wilderness Survival	4	5 -bring kit to camp

## High Adventure/COPE

Climbing	5	sturdy long pants
Cycling	5	8, 9
Sports	3	4, 5

## Handicraft

Art	3	4
Basketry	1	None (fee)
Indian Lore	4	1 (fee)
Leatherwork	2	None (fee)
Photography	3	35mm or digital camera, with flash, 2 rolls film/ memory card, (fee)
Wood Carving	2	2a (fee)
*Sculpture	3	None

## Please Be Aware...

The note "fee" generally means that the Scout may wish to/need to purchase a kit or aid from the camp Trading Post to help him meet certain badge requirements. These items are usually between \$1.00 and \$10.00 each.

The following badges are by special arrangement only. Scouts are expected to be proficient in all required knowledge and skills before arrival at camp and bring with them any needed gear and/or projects: Bugling, Music, Bird Study, Insect Study, Fly-Fishing.

\* Please note these starred badges have requirements that were revised or changed as of January 1, 2008. Goose Pond Scout Reservation will require that the new 2008 requirements be met to complete the badge.