

# Merit Badge Prerequisites

The merit badge program at RSR is specifically designed to reflect the outdoor experience of camp. As a result, most merit badges offered may be completed entirely at camp. In some cases, however, a requirement may be more easily or necessarily completed at home. In such cases the Scout is asked to bring evidence of completion for review by his or her merit badge counselor. We recommend that a Scout interested in earning the following merit badges complete the listed prerequisites before camp.

Merit Badge	Prerequisites	Notes
Archery	#1e	Research state and local laws for owning and using archery tackle.
Astronomy	#4c, #5b, #5d, #6b, #8	Completion requires extended night observations and clear nights making this badge very weather dependent and difficult to complete solely at camp.
Backpacking	#8c, #8d, #10, #11abc	Complete hiking requirements
Bird Study	#5, #7, #8, #9	
Camping	#4b, #8c, #8d, #9a, #9b	Requirement #9 must be done over a series of camping trips and verified with dates and locations by the Scoutmaster. Scouts taking Camping should bring an internal or external frame backpack and backpacking tent for a one night outpost experience
Crime Prevention	#2, #3a-b #4b	Prepare a journal from various sources that address crime and crime prevention efforts in your community (2), Examine news coverage of crimes (3), conduct a security survey of your home and discuss the results with your family (4b)
Emergency Preparedness	#1, #3a, #3c	Complete First Aid Merit Badge (1), create emergency plan with your family (3a). Scouts should come prepared with their personal service pack, pictures of their family evacuation kit (3c), and a copy of their family plans (in brief, bullet point form) signed by their parents/guardians and a Scout leader (3a)
Environmental Science	N/A	While there are no prerequisites, Environmental Science is a very intense and time consuming Eagle Required merit badge for older Scouts. Care should be taken in scheduling other merit badges so as to not overburden the Scout. Maturity is important.
First Aid	#2(b)1	Bring completed First Aid Kit for review by your counselor [2(b)1]
Geocaching	#7 and #8	

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Insect Study	#3b, #4b-d, #5b,	Very difficult badge requiring extensive preparation prior to camp
Lifesaving	#1 and #2	Review Safe Swim Defense, complete Swimming Merit Badge, and complete swimming requirement in 2b before beginning the rest of the badge.
Nature	#4	Requirement 4 requires Scouts to collect specimens from several different categories of nature.
Photography	#1b	View the Personal Safety Awareness "Digital Safety" video
Plant Science	#5, #8	Grow plants
Pioneering	N/A	Proficiency in knots and lashings required. Scouts should practice knots and lashings prior to camp.
Reptile and Amphibian Study	#1, #4, #6, #8, #9a or #9b	
Rifle Shooting	#1g, #1i,	Knowledge of the firearm laws of the Scout's home state is required. Minimum age of 12 required.
Safety	#1a-d, #2a-b, #3b, and #4	Prepare notebook of news stories, facts and statistics. Complete home inspection and develop family safety plan. Teach family members what to do in an emergency. Scouts should come prepared with their journal, as well as notes about the other requirements and signatures from a parent/guardian and a Scoutmaster.
Search and Rescue	N/A	Highly recommend minimum age of 13
Shotgun Shooting	#1g, #1i,	Knowledge of the firearm laws of the Scout's home state is required. Shotgun shooting requires upper body strength capable of safely supporting a heavy shotgun. Scout must demonstrate ability to hold proper shotgun stance prior to starting the merit badge. Minimum age of 13 required. Minimum age of 14 recommended.
Small Boat Sailing	N/A	Prior practice of required knots is useful for completion
Swimming	#2	Scouts must successfully pass BSA Swimmer's Test before beginning the badge. Scouts who do not pass the Swimmer's Test on Sunday should be placed in Swim Instruction rather than Swimming MB. Swimming MB is not a learn-to-swim program and is not recommended for weak swimmers who need to develop physical strength, confidence or swimming skills before attempting the badge.
Wilderness Survival	#5	Build a personal survival kit. Bring kit to camp.
Wood Carving	#2a	Totin' Chip training and previous knife handling experience.