



Merit Badges

All merit badge times are tentative and subject to change before camp opens. If there are any such changes, you will be notified at the Leader’s Meeting on Sunday afternoon. A complete schedule of all merit badges can be found at the end of this section starting on [page 185](#).

Scoutmasters, register your Scouts in advance by signing-on to the BSA-GNYC reservation system. Go to www.tenmileriver.org. Forgot your unit’s password or need help? Contact Camping Services. An announcement will be made via email prior to the opening of class registration, at which time, Scouts who have already made their \$40 deposit will be able to select their class schedule.

Merit badges are ranked on a scale of 1 through 5, 5 being the hardest. Of course, the harder the badge, the more time and practice are needed for successful completion. Scouts should consider this when choosing what badges to take. In most instances, Scouts will need to spend time outside of scheduled merit badge classes working on requirements and practicing skills. This should be taken into account when preparing each Scout’s individual plan for summer camp.

Merit Badge Difficulty Ratings

Rating	Description
1	Fairly easy
2	Average, can usually be completed in one week
3	Difficult, requiring hard work and time commitment
4	Difficult, requiring special skill, knowledge and experience
5	Impossible to complete in one week without prior work

All merit badge cards must be turned in to the counselor by the second class meeting. If the cards are not turned in (and signed by the Unit Leader) by the second session, the Scout will not be able to complete the merit badge.

Archery

- Archery merit badge requires a lot of practice time, and is thus rated a 4 for difficulty.

Climbing and Rappelling

- For safety reasons, Scouts must be at least 13 years of age or have completed the 7th grade to participate in this merit badge.
- Climbing merit badge is one of the hardest merit badges that Ranachqua has to offer. Because of this, it has a level of difficulty of 5.
- Please bring long pants to wear on the climbing wall.





Merit Badges

Handicraft

- Given the use of arts and craft supplies some Handicraft badges have a small cost for materials. Here is our best estimate for what to expect at camp.

Merit Badge	Degree of Difficulty	Approximate Cost
Art	2	\$6
Basketry	2	\$18
Indian Lore	2	\$6
Leatherwork	1	\$8
Pulp and Paper	1	\$5
Wood Carving	4	\$4
Woodwork	4	\$10

Sports / Cycling

Our sports/cycling department will offer four merit badges this summer: Fishing, Sports, Athletics, and Personal Fitness.

Merit Badge	Degree of Difficulty	Prerequisite (Req. #)
Athletics	3	3, 5, 6b ^a
Fishing	3	None
Personal Fitness	5	1, 7, 8 ^b
Sports	2	3,4 ^c

- Scouts should provide a note from a coach, parent, or leader stating that they have participated in an organized sports league for one full season before coming to camp. Scouts must also come to camp with their progress charted and note stating these requirements have been completed except for the last week, which can be completed at camp. For requirement 6B a Scout should come to camp with a note that states that they have served as an official, and be prepared to discuss what they have learned.
- Requirement 1 states that a Scout must have a complete physical examination by a physician and a complete dental checkup. A Scout's medical form will suffice for part A and a written note from the Scout's dentist is required as well. Also, requirement 8 should be completed **at camp**; it must have been started as least 11 weeks before camp.





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- c. Scouts should provide a note from a coach, parent, or leader stating that they have participated in an organized sports league for one full season before coming to camp. Scouts must come to camp with their progress charted and a note stating these requirements have been completed except for the last week, which can be completed at camp.

Nature Lodge

- In order to complete several of the badges, the Scout must complete some requirements before attending camp; the prerequisites and degrees of difficulty are as follows:

Merit Badge	Degree of Difficulty	Prerequisite (Req. #)
Astronomy	5	None
Composite Materials	3	None
Energy	4	4a, 4b
Environmental Science	4	None
Fish and Wildlife Management	2	None
Forestry	3	None
Insect Study (upon request)	5	7
Mammal Study	1	None
Nature	4	None
Oceanography	3	None
Plant Science	4	None
Reptile and Amphibian Study	3	8 ^a
Soil and Water Conservation	2	None
Space Exploration	3	Have Astronomy M.B. and be 15 years old
Weather	3	8a, 8b, 9a & 9b ^b

- a. For requirement 8, Scouts need to keep and care for a reptile or amphibian for one month and record their observations and actions. See the merit badge pamphlet for details.
- b. Scout must have a note from a leader or counselor stating that they have completed 8a, 8b, 9a, and 9b and that they have spoken for five minutes to Cub Scouts about outdoor safety in weather conditions, and acid rain. Scouts also must visit a weather station and record daily weather information





Merit Badges

Rifle and Shotgun Range

- Both Rifle Shooting and Shotgun Shooting merit badges are rated at level 4 for difficulty. There are no prerequisites for either merit badge.
- Scouts must be 12 years old to shoot a rifle and 13 years old or have completed the 7th grade to shoot a shotgun and should be prepared for book related work on the first day of class.
- Please divide your Scouts between the different rifle and shotgun classes. The smaller the classes the more time Scouts will have to practice shooting to complete the requirements.

Scout Skills

- Scout Skills offers six merit badges: Camping, First Aid, Geocaching, Orienteering, Pioneering, and Wilderness Survival.
- Camping and Wilderness Survival require Scouts to attend the overnighter Thursday evening. Also for Camping, Scouts will need a note from their Scoutmaster stating that they have camped a total of 20 days and nights before arriving at camp.
- We are again offering Geocaching merit badge this year! Scouts should bring a GPS unit if possible. Scouts must be at least 13 years old.
- Scouts may also want to make a small survival kit for Wilderness Survival merit badge before coming to camp.

Merit Badge	Degree of Difficulty	Prerequisite (Req. #)
Camping	5	Note required from unit leader for 20 days of camping
Cooking (week 5) ^a	3	Requirement 5
First Aid	4	Complete all Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class first aid requirements. Also, make required first aid kit
Geocaching	4	Requirement 8, and Scouts must have earned Orienteering merit badge and be at least 13 years old
Orienteering	4	None
Pioneering	4	None
Wilderness Survival	3	Requirement 5





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- a. The Camping Committee of Greater New York Councils and the leadership of Ten Mile River have determined that offering Cooking merit badge every week would require executing it in such a way as to potentially diminish the achievement, and ultimately hurt the program (*i.e.*, interpreting the requirements too loosely, calling for a large of a portion of the badge to be completed as prerequisites, and generally cutting corners). We believe that cooking is a necessary life skill and given that the badge has been elevated to a more advanced level we offer it during our Trail to Eagle specialty week. Completing this badge in one week will require that Scouts attend cooking classes, participate in Wednesday's "Cooking Mega Event", and join in the Thursday night overnighiter previously limited to those attempting Camping and Wilderness Survival merit badges. To complete requirement 7, Scouts should bring backpacks and mess kits with them to camp. Requirement 5 will be treated as a prerequisite. Scouts participating in Cooking merit badge during Eagle Week should come to camp with:

a copy of their full three day menu plan to feed themselves and one adult noting how they've taken into consideration the MyPlate or USDA nutrition model (req. 5).

their shopping list showing the amount of food needed and projected cost of each meal (req. 5a).

a document **signed by the adult (parent, family member, guardian) who was served** that includes the four meals served, the cooking methods utilized (req. 5c), the cooking time and verification that it was served on time (req. 5d), and the adult's review and evaluation on presentation and taste. The note must also be signed by the Scoutmaster to confirm its authenticity.





Merit Badges

Aquatics

- The Waterfront offers six merit badges: Canoeing, Kayaking, Lifesaving, Motorboating, Small-Boat Sailing, Swimming, and Rowing.

Merit Badge	Degree of Difficulty	Prerequisite (Req. #)
Canoeing	4	Swimmer
Kayaking	3	Swimmer
Lifesaving	5	Swimmer, First Class
Motorboating	3	Swimmer, First Class, 15 years old, 6a & 6b ^a
Rowing	4	Swimmer, 5b
Small-Boat Sailing	3	Swimmer
Swimming	3	Swimmer

- Requirements 6a and 6b require Scouts to launch a boat from a trailer and remove a boat from the water using a trailer. These requirements cannot be completed at camp.

All aquatics merit badges contain a requirement relating to CPR: “Identify the conditions that must exist before performing CPR on a person, and explain how to recognize such conditions. Demonstrate proper technique for performing CPR using a training device approved by your counselor”. If your Scouts have recently reviewed and performed CPR on a mannequin at a troop meeting, please have them bring a signed letter confirming this.





Merit Badges

Performing Arts

Merit Badge	Degree of Difficulty	Prerequisite (Req. #)
Moviemaking	4	
Music ^a	2	
Public Speaking	3	
Theater	4	

a. As a prerequisite you must complete at least one of these:

Attend a live performance, or listen to three hours of recordings from any two of the following musical styles: blues, jazz, classical, country, bluegrass, ethnic, gospel, musical theater, opera. Describe the sound of the music and the instruments used. Identify the composers or songwriters, the performers, and the titles of the pieces you heard. If it was a live performance, describe the setting and the reaction of the audience. Discuss your thoughts about the music.

Interview an adult member of your family about music. Find out what the most popular music was when he or she was your age. Find out what his or her favorite music is now, and listen to three favorite tunes with him or her. How do those favorites sound to you? Had you ever heard any of them? Play three of your favorite songs for your relative, and explain why you like these songs. Ask what he or she thinks of your favorite music.

Serve for six months as a member of a school band, choir, or other local musical group; or perform as a soloist in public six times.

Come to camp with a signed note confirming the prerequisite completion.

