

Law Merit Badge



Expectations, Criteria & Timeline Handout

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[Wood Badge](#) [Green Bar](#) [Powder Horn](#)
[Order of the Arrow](#) [Scouts BSA National Camping School](#)
[NRA – Rifle & Range Safety Officer](#)

2022 Daniel
Boone
Council

Virtual Merit
Badge Event

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COVER LETTER

January 1, 2022

On behalf of the professional and volunteer staff of the Daniel Boone Council, I would like to express sincere thanks for your selecting the Law Merit Badge as part of the Council's ongoing education and advancement support process. All merit badges provide Troop and Crew members a continuing path to learn potential future educational and vocational opportunities.

Please remember previous legal experience is not required to participate in this badge. However, the Law Merit Badge will challenge you to learn aspects of the law you may have not previously known and to apply them in small and large group settings. The Law Merit Badge is not one where you simply walk into the classroom and "learn through osmosis." You will have homework, extracurricular event attendance and will participate in a mock criminal trial. While in class we will cover the history of various legal systems, practices and how law is viewed by several cultures and its ongoing impact over the centuries.

The Law Merit Badge can be very challenging to passive or recessive personalities. It requires the ability to visualize concepts and apply them to the class. The "final exam" is participation in a mock trial requiring application of new-found knowledge.

I have been offering this specific merit badge since 2008. Over the years I have observed the true importance of offering this course in a systematic process which builds layers of knowledge upon each other. Clarity and mutually understood guidelines are important, especially in the world of cyber-based learning. This package will inform you of my expectations as a Merit Badge Counselor, in class and homework assignments and the sequence we will use to go through the curriculum as a group and individually.

If you have questions regarding any information presented in this document, please do not hesitate to contact me at bryansofhilliard@outlook.com. Please note the Youth Protection Requirements outlined later in this document when contacting me via email.

I look forward to seeing each of you at Session 1.

Yours in Scouting,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Bryan". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

MERIT BADGE COMPLETION TIMELINE

Date	Requirement(s)	Comment(s)
Session 1	1, 2.a, 2.c, 3, 5	
Session 2	8, 10, 11	
Session 3	6.b	Homework due at end of this session: 4, 7, 9 (See homework expectations on page 6 of this document)

MERIT BADGE COUNSELOR EXPECTATIONS

Scouts, BSA Literature

- All participants are expected to read the applicable Scouts, BSA merit badge handbook prior to the first session. Memorization is not required. The goal is to provide participants base knowledge they will need to participate and as a starting threshold.
- “Off the cuff” or ad hoc responses to questions will be interpreted as the Scout being unprepared for class and potentially jeopardize grading requirements as complete. This is a determination at the sole discretion of the Merit Badge Counselor.

Attendance

- Overall, attendance and participation in all three virtual merit badge classes are critical factors to successful completion of this merit badge. Information, both written and verbal will be distributed at each session. Participants can expect random selection as respondents to present their answers or interpretations to the entire class. That said, I also recognize life is filled with challenges and changes. I will consider waiver of attendance for one of the first two sessions provided I receive at least 24-hour advance notice. Such waivers will be at the sole discretion of the Merit Badge Counselor.

Uniforms

- This is an event sponsored by the Daniel Boone Council and sanctioned by Scouts, BSA. Law Merit Badge participants will be in a full Class “A” (Field Activity) Uniform for all group and individual Zoom calls (if needed).

Use of Electronics

- All merit badge participants will be on screen and viewable by all parties involved. The use of cameras mounted in or connected to laptop/desktop computers or tablets is optimal. Screen ratio and clarity associated with cellular phones has historically proven to be inadequate; especially for the “final exam” mock trial. Use of cellular phones will be considered at sole discretion of the Merit Badge Counselor provided a request is received at least 24 hours in advance of the applicable Zoom session.

Courtesy and Respect

- Several aspects of the Scout Law directly address courtesy and respect. All merit badge participants are expected to apply all 12 Points of the Scout Law. Participants must remember other attendees have varying levels of education, experience, and development. Disparaging, disrespectful, and abusive comments or actions directed at or about any participant will result in immediate removal from the Zoom call.

Group and Individual Communication (Youth Protection Requirements)

- **ZOOM CALLS** - Maintaining the safety and privacy of all participants is paramount. Scouts, BSA Youth Protection Requirements will be utilized in group and individual settings. The Merit Badge Counselor will provide 2-Deep Leadership for group Zoom calls. The Merit Badge Counselor will require the participant to ensure their parent or other adult over the age of twenty-one is present for individual Zoom calls. Failure to obtain and ensure the continued presence of a participant’s adult attendee will result in immediate termination of the Zoom call.
- **EMAILS** – All merit badge participants shall provide (via email) the name and email address for their parent, legal guardian, Troop Scoutmaster or Crew Advisor prior to the first Zoom call. After that point, any emails not including that addressee will not be answered. The Merit Badge Counselor will apply the same YPT principle as well. I will include the previously listed adult on all my responses.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Evidence of Completed Blue Card Requirements

- Evaluation of satisfactory completion of merit badge requirements will be based primarily on two factors.
 - The clarity and accuracy of verbal statements made by participants during scheduled classes. I will be calling on participants randomly to make verbal statements documenting their understanding of merit badge requirements. Every

participant is expected to read the entire merit badge handbook and should be prepared to provide a verbal response to any request to present. Ad hoc or off-the-cuff (spontaneous and unprepared) verbal responses will receive lower evaluation marks. This determination is based solely on the view of the Merit Badge Counselor.

- With exception of the “final exam” (“mock trial”), all participants are expected to submit written responses to all requirements at the end of the third and final session. Written responses may be legibly handwritten or typed. They are to be emailed to me no later than noon on the Saturday immediately following the third and final class session. Merit badge guidelines prohibit me from requiring those answers be on the specific merit badge worksheet. However, this is still strongly recommended. If submitted other than on the worksheet, each response must have a number corresponding to a specific requirement. It will not be necessary to re-type or re-write the requirement text provided the associated requirement number is included.

Homework

- The following merit badge requirements will not be covered while in class and are considered homework. Being designated as homework does not remove the requirement for participants to provide written summary responses as outlined above. All homework assignments must be emailed to me no later than 3 PM on the first Saturday after the final Zoom session.
 - **4 – ASK FIVE PEOPLE (NOT MORE THAN ONE FROM YOUR IMMEDIATE FAMILY) ABOUT THE ROLE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS IN OUR SOCIETY. DISCUSS THEIR ANSWERS WITH THEM. GO TO A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD AND ASK THEM ABOUT RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES.** For the second part of this requirement, ensure your answers include the law enforcement agency type (police, sheriff, etc., and that individual’s rank or role in your write-ups.
 - **7 – ARRANGE A VISIT WITH A LAWYER WHO WORKS FOR A BUSINESS, BANK, TITLE COMPANY OR GOVERNMENT AGENCY. FIND OUT THEIR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.** Ensure the type of business the lawyer represents, and specific area of practice are included in your write-up.
 - **9 – MAKE A LIST OF 15 JOBS WHICH DEAL WITH SOME ASPECT OF LAW OR LEGAL PROCESSES. TELL WHICH YOU PREFER AND WHY. VAGUE** or generic answers such as, “they help people” without supporting justification will be considered insufficient.

The “Final Exam”

- As the “final exam” during the third Zoom session, we will complete Requirement 6.b (Plan and conduct a mock trial with your troop or school class. Shortly after the end of Zoom Session 1, I will email all participants and provide them with:
 - A charge or specification sheet which will include all charges against a defendant.
 - A written summary of the incident provided by the police officer involved.
 - Supporting statements or evidence.
 - A list of which merit badge participants I select to fill each role (defendant, police officer, witness, juror, etc.). Role assignments are **not** negotiable

Early receipt of this information will allow participants to continue in class, learning as they go, and apply those lessons at the mock trial in Zoom Session 3