

TL Storer Merit Badges 2017

We are doing away with the predetermined merit badge schedule in favor of flexible weekly schedule. Merit Badge registration should be completed on DoubleKnot by June 1st. After June 1st we will begin to create personalized schedules using a new software. The new system will enable more opportunity for scouts to be engaged in program by creating schedules based on demand so that we don't cut off interest in a badge.

Any Registrations or changes made after June 1st will be subject to the schedule created at that time, much like in past years with the fixed schedule. Therefore after June 1st there will be less flexibility in what badges a scout can take. Just as in the past, while we will do our best, we cannot guarantee that every scout will get exactly what they ask for. However, we trust that our software will be able to meet the needs of each Scout more than we have ever been able to in the past.

What this means for you and your Scouts

- ✓ Personalized schedules geared toward you and your Scouts
- ✓ The ability for Scouts to complete more badges if desired
- ✓ Scout driven and Scout centered Advancement
- ✓ Smaller Scout to Counsellor ratios
- ✓ More freedom for Scouts to focus on the badges they want

Common Misconceptions

- ⊗ Storer is moving to open program.

FACT: *Storer is remaining structured (closed) program. This registration change will allow for dynamically scheduled programs to fit you and your Scouts.*

- ⊗ Scouts just wander camp with no easy way to find them.

FACT: *Scouts will have individual Merit Badge Schedules, which Scout leaders will have as well as the areas and main office. Scouts are encouraged to stick to their schedule to complete all badges and will be released from badges once the requirements have been completed.*

- ⊗ Staff Counsellors will not be able to keep up with all the schedules and may switch mid-badge.

FACT: *Staff will have schedules like the Scouts so they are always on time and prepared for badges. The software takes into account staff numbers to not overbook areas while ensuring the smallest Scout to Counsellor Ratio for that week. This leads to better counseling.*

How does registration work

Merit Badges will occur in the morning as always, giving Scouts a total of 15 blocks to fill if desired. Each block will be an hour in length with three blocks each day. Scouts should create a list of desired badges filling to a total of 15 possible blocks. Each badge is listed with the number of blocks to completion, requirements resulting in partials, other notes, and a recommended activity level. Leaders will then complete the registration through doubleknot inputting each Scouts' desired list.

As always Scouts are encouraged to talk to the director at camp to complete partials and attempt badges that do not fit in their schedule.

Example Scout Schedules

Scouts Schedules will be created to fit them. No longer will they need to spend a whole week in a badge that can be completed in 3 hours. With a total of 15 blocks our software will be able to design the best schedule to accommodate the Scouts in camp that week.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9 AM	Lifesaving	Lifesaving	Lifesaving	Lifesaving	Lifesaving
10 AM	Lifesaving	Lifesaving	Sculpture	Sculpture	Sculpture
11 AM	Astronomy	Astronomy	Astronomy	Astronomy	Astronomy

By switching to this dynamic scheduling Scouts will be able to complete more badges if desired. The software allows for a variety of blocking decisions from meeting once a day to having multiple blocks in a day.

This will allow us to generate the best possible schedule to ensure everyone gets what they want to the best of our ability. Also allowing us to counsel badges in smaller numbers.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9 AM	Salesmanship	Salesmanship	Painting	Painting	Painting
10 AM	Pioneering	Pioneering	Sculpture	Sculpture	Sculpture
11 AM	Pioneering	Pioneering	Pioneering	Pioneering	Pioneering

This method of scheduling also means Scouts can leave open blocks if they desire.

We do not look at this as a problem however because it enables them to focus on what they want, whether that is going back to handicraft to work on their basketry project or going to Sports to play GaGa ball. After June 1st the fixed schedules for each week will be generated. At this point if a Scout desired they could register for a 3 block class in a 2 block spot, understanding that they will need to put in extra effort as not to partial.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9 AM	Lifesaving	Lifesaving	Lifesaving	Lifesaving	Lifesaving
10 AM	Lifesaving	Lifesaving		Sculpture	Sculpture
11 AM	Basketry	Basketry	Basketry	Sculpture	Sculpture