

Dear Scout Leaders,

Several people have been interested in how we will be handling Cooking merit badge this summer and what pre-work will be needed. As you all know, Cooking has become Eagle required, and the requirements for the badge have changed. The new requirements are significantly more involved—as they should be for an Eagle-required badge. Here are some points to remember:

- 1) If a Scout comes with a partial card which he started with the old requirements, we may not be able to include him in the class. Those may be taken on a case by case basis, depending on what needs to be finished.
- 2) A Scout will not be able to complete the merit badge at camp. The cooking requirements are very extensive. We will not do requirement 7, which are meals that need to be prepared out on the trail. Because the cooking requirements in 5-7 are so extensive now, we will concentrate on finishing requirements 5 and 6 only.
- 3) Here is what a Scout will need to do in order to be enrolled in the class:
 - A) Have requirements 1, 2, and 3 completed and ready to present to the instructor.
 - B) Must at least be familiar with the items in requirement 4
 - C) Do the menus for 5 and 6 and have 5a and 6a completed on paper
- 4) While we recognize that a couple of the pre-requisite requirements say “Explain” or “Discuss,” we want the Scouts to have explored these requirements and written down their answers. The counselor will discuss these with them as well. However, if they do not make an effort to research and answer the information before they come to camp, then it will hold the class up while it is explained to them.

If they have these requirements ready when they come to camp, they can enroll in the class. As you can see from the requirements, there is quite a bit of cooking to do. Day 1 will consist of going through all the pre-work. Days 2-5 will consist of cooking all the meals.

They will also be required to supervise and help with their patrol cooking on our jamboree day, Wednesday, if there are in a troop that does not do week-long jamboree style feeding.

The Scouts do not necessarily have to start with a counselor at home, although they may do that if they desire. What we require is that they bring the finished pre-requisites to camp with them. The Scoutmaster’s signature on the blue card will affirm to us that the Scout is ready to go and has done the pre-work he needs to do.

We will make every effort to insure your Scouts has a fun, productive, and learning experience.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you.

Tim Wells