

Arts & Hobbies

Common at Merit Badge Colleges

Chess Merit Badge

Chess rules, strategy, and notation — a low-cost, high-engagement badge.

GOOD FIT IF YOU LIKE

Tech & Computers

Leadership

Available at Merit Badge Colleges

This badge is commonly offered at merit badge college events hosted by councils and universities. A great way to knock it out in a weekend with an experienced counselor. [Learn how to find one near you.](#)

Official Requirements

We keep this page focused on tips and what to expect, not a copy of the requirement text — requirements get revised periodically, and scouts are generally held to whichever version was current when they started the badge (the same reason Scoutbook lets you filter by pamphlet version). For the exact, current wording, check your Scoutbook record for this badge or the official page below.

[Chess on scouting.org](#) 📄

Finding a Counselor

Ask your Scoutmaster for the council's merit badge counselor list. For popular badges, a parent in your troop may already be registered as a counselor. If your troop doesn't have one, your council's advancement chair can help connect you.

Tip: for this badge, look for counselors who work professionally in the field — a local vet, engineer, or IT professional makes an ideal counselor and often brings real-world context the pamphlet alone can't provide.