



Boy Scout Veterinary Medicine Merit Badge Annual Open House March 27, 2010

The Veterinary Medicine Merit Badge program will consist of an **assignment to be postmarked no later than March 1, 2010**, a **presentation by a local veterinarian**, and **guided tours** of Open House exhibits and presentations. Boy Scouts who participate will have the opportunity to earn the Veterinary Medicine Merit Badge.

Following is information necessary for your scout(s) to complete the Veterinary Medicine Merit Badge.

“Requirements for the veterinary medicine merit badge” are just the requirements provided by the Boy Scouts of America. page 2

“Instructions on how to complete and submit the veterinary medicine merit badge” will guide the boys and answer most questions. page 3

“Frequently Asked Questions” will answer many questions that will arise. page 5

“Additional Resources” is a tool to help the scouts find additional information. page 8

Please read the packet carefully. If this packet does not answer your questions then please email the Open House Boy Scout Committee Chair, David Andrews, at boyscouts@cvm.tamu.edu.

Requirements for the Veterinary Medicine Merit Badge

1. Discuss with your counselor the roles a veterinarian plays in the following:
 - a. Companion or small animal medicine, and equine medicine
 - b. Exotic animal medicine
 - c. Marine animal medicine (mammal and fish)
 - d. Wildlife medicine and aquaculture medicine
 - e. The military
 - f. Laboratory animal medicine and research
2. Discuss with your counselor the roles a veterinarian plays in the following:
 - a. Public health medicine and zoonotic disease surveillance and control
 - b. Food animal or large animal medicine
 - c. Poultry medicine
 - d. Food safety and inspection
 - e. Teaching and government
3. Describe the training required to become a veterinarian. Where is the veterinary medical college nearest you? Describe the prerequisites for applying to veterinary school.
4. Tell your counselor what a registered veterinary technician (R.T.V.) or animal health technician (A.H.T.) is. Describe the training required to become an R.V.T. or A.H.T. Where is the school or facility for R.V.T. or A.H.T. training nearest you? Describe the role an R.V.T. or A.H.T. would play in assisting a veterinarian working in three of the practice types listed in requirement 1.
5. Discuss with your merit badge counselor the role a veterinarian plays in the human-animal bond.
6. Do ONE of the following:
 - a. Visit a veterinary clinic, hospital, or veterinary referral teaching hospital that does work in one of the practices listed in requirement 1. Spend as much time as you can observing the veterinarians and their staff. Write a report on what you observed and learned at the facility. Share your report with your counselor.
 - b. Spend as much time as possible with a veterinarian who works in one of the fields listed in requirement 2. Learn what special training beyond veterinary medical school may have been required for that position. Learn about any special or unusual activities required of this position. Write a report on what you have learned about this field of veterinary medicine. Include in your report how this field serves the needs of the general public. Share your report with your counselor.

Instructions for Completing and Submitting Requirements for the Veterinary Medicine Merit Badge

Completing the Requirements: following are directions and suggestions for completing the actual requirements. **All submissions must be typed in 12 point font, double spaced.**

Requirement #1

Please provide paragraphs of approximately 100 words for a-f (two paragraphs for “a” and “f”). Demonstrate that you have a true understanding of the roles of veterinarians in these areas. Total of 8 paragraphs. Must be typed in 12 pt. font, double spaced.

Requirement #2

This will be completed at the Open House event from 8-9am in a presentation format. You are encouraged, however, to learn about these areas before hearing more about them at the Open House.

Requirement #3

You are encouraged to use the Texas A&M website as a reference (<http://www.cvm.tamu.edu/bims/>). Please be thorough. Include undergraduate requirements, applicable tests/exams that must be taken, the application process requirements, experience, and other aspects.

Requirement #4

You are encouraged to get this information from a Registered Veterinary Technician that you know or visit the website for the National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America (<http://www.navta.net>). The vet school website also has helpful information (utilize “Informational Resources” later in this packet). Again, please be thorough, each part of the requirement needs to be addressed.

Requirement #5

Please respond in approximately 200 words.

Requirement #6

Option “a” can be fulfilled at any veterinary clinic where you would take your pet or livestock. Specialty clinics are also an option.

Responses should show that reflective/meaningful original thought was put forth. If responses seem incomplete, inaccurate, or very similar to another scout’s responses, the scout will be notified through the troop’s contact person/scout leader and asked to make necessary adjustments. **All requirements (except #2) must be postmarked no later than March 1, 2010.** The final requirement (#2) will be fulfilled at the Open House on Saturday, March 27, 2010.

Please keep in mind that some troops decide to use their own merit badge counselor. If your troop decides to do so, and wishes for the Open House merit badge counselor to only pass off requirement #2 that is fine. Please let him/her know as soon as you can.

Submitting Requirements

All submissions, including requirements, blue cards, and payments should be mailed to:

TAMU CVM Office of the Dean
Attn: Open House - Boy Scouts
TAMU MS 4461
College Station, TX 77843-3878

Please remember to typed in 12 point font and double space all work. You may use the internet, books, veterinarians and/or veterinary medicine personnel to find the necessary information. **Scout leaders/parents need to review the scouts' work before submission. Please look for areas that need improvement based on the instructions provided earlier in this packet.**

As a troop (if possible), return the completed packets by mail postmarked before or on **March 1, 2010** to the above address. *Early submission of the merit badge requirements is encouraged.*

The requirements will be evaluated, and then the scout leader/contact person will be notified by email of any changes that the scout needs to make.

Submitting Payment

A \$12 fee is due by **January 25, 2010** for each scout. Please make checks or money orders payable to "Open House" and send them to the Open House Committee Chair at the address above. Please submit payments for all scouts at one time if possible and include the troop number on the memo line.

Submitting Blue Cards

Fill them out as much as possible, including using the above name and address for the merit badge counselor. Submit all the blue cards for the troop in the same envelope which the scouts' written work was submitted in. **Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope for the blue cards to be returned in.** Those troops utilizing their own merit badge counselor for requirements 1, 3-6 may mail in blue cards for requirement #2 if they wish. Blue cards will be returned by mail with the merit badge counselor's signature within 3 weeks after Open House.

Frequently Asked Questions

How can I register another scout after registration has closed?

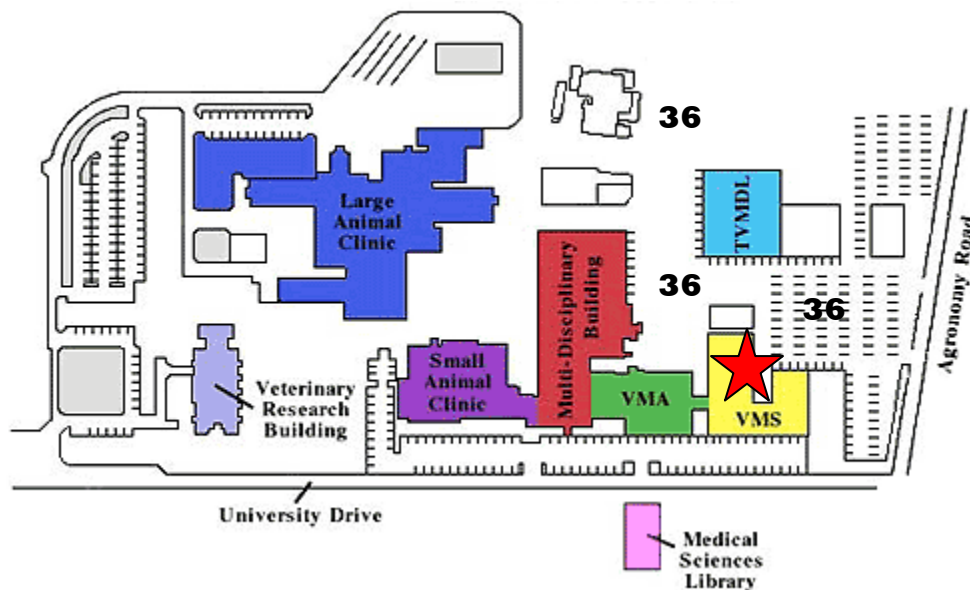
Email the Open House Boy Scout Committee Co-Chairs at boyscouts@cvm.tamu.edu. There may be openings available, or the scout can be put on the alternate's list.

What do I do if a scout can no longer attend?

Email the Open House Boy Scout Committee Co-Chairs at boyscouts@cvm.tamu.edu. The scout's name will be removed from the list. There will be no refunds on the registration fee however.

How do I get to the vet school?

Once near College Station, go west on University Drive (aka Raymond Stotzer Parkway), then take a right (north) on Agronomy road. The vet school is on the corner of Agronomy road and University Drive. University Drive is also accessible by going east from FM 2818/Harvey-Mitchel Parkway; take a left (north) on Agronomy. Also, Highway 60 heading east turns into University Drive; take a left (north) on Agronomy. A map can be found at the veterinary college website at http://www.cvm.tamu.edu/college_info/map0.shtml.



36

Where do we park and sign-in on the morning of Open House?

Park in lot 36. It is the first lot on the left after getting on Agronomy road heading north. Look for large trees and lawn to the left as you enter the parking lot. Registration will be at a table under those trees, just outside room 201 where the presentation will be. Room VMS 201 is represented by the red star.

What is the schedule for the day of the Open House?

Sign-In: 7:15-7:45 am.

All scouts must be done with this process and in their seats by 7:45. A table will be set up just outside room 201. You will pick up an envelope that will contain the patches for the Open House event, as well as brochures containing maps and the schedule of the day's events.

Requirement #2 presentation: 8:00-8:50 am in VMS room 201

Tours: 9 am – noon

Each year tours of the exhibits and demonstrations are given from 9-noon in an effort to enhance the experience of your scouts. Tours are optional, but we highly recommend them. It is very informal, but provides a resource that will enable better navigation of all the sights and also serve as a source of information. Tour guides can enrich the experience by being able to answer questions, or provide interesting information that the exhibit or demonstration did not include.

When are blue cards turned in? When do we get them back?

Blue cards are filled out as much as possible and mailed to the Open House Boy Scout Committee Chair well before the Open House, when the written requirements are submitted. *Please include a self-addressed, stamped envelope for the blue cards to be returned in.* They will be returned with the merit badge counselor's signature (if all requirements have been satisfactorily completed) by mail within 3 weeks after Open House.

Is there a patch that comes with the event? How can I get extra patches?

Each registered boyscout will receive a patch for the event at the time of registration. A few extra patches will be available for purchase at a price of \$3 each. Cash or check only; exact change appreciated.

How do I submit completed requirements?

See "Instructions on how to complete and submit merit badge requirements"

When do we get our merit badge patches?

Merit badges will not be provided by the vet school open house. Scout leaders will submit the completed blue cards in the usual fashion.

Have the Veterinary Medicine merit badge requirements changed?

The requirements provided on this website are new as of 2009. Changes in merit badge requirements can be found at <http://usscouts.org> (the U.S. Scouting Service Project).

Is there a fee for attending? How much? Who do I make it out too? Where do I send it? Is there a fee for adults attending?

Yes, a \$12 fee is due by January 25, 2010 for each scout; there is no fee for adults. If you are a late registrant, please send the check as soon as you can. Make checks or money orders payable to "Open House" and send them to:

TAMU CVM Office of the Dean
Attn: Open House - Boy Scouts
TAMU MS 4461
College Station, TX 77843-3878

Please submit payments for all scouts at one time if possible and include the troop number on the memo line of the check.

When will we know that submitted requirements have been received/completed adequately?

In the weeks shortly after receiving the requirements (due March 1, 2010) they will be evaluated and the scout leader/contact person will be emailed indicating that the work is sufficient or that changes need to be made. If changes need to be made, that scout should do so in a timely manner. The changes can then be emailed or mailed back to the Open House Boy Scout Committee Chair/ Merit Badge Counselor.

What are the important dates to remember?

January 25, 2010 Last day to send in \$12 fee

March 1, 2010 Last day to submit completed merit badge requirements

Saturday, March 27, 2009: Open House

What happens if a submitted requirement is incomplete or needs to be modified?

The Open House Boy Scout Committee Chair will email the scout master/troop contact person and request the additional/corrected information. The corrections can be emailed to the Committee Chair at boyscouts@cvm.tamu.edu.

Do you have a list of hotels in the area?

Go to the Bryan-College Station Convention & Visitors Bureau website at <http://www.bryan-collegestation.org/lists> for information on accommodations.

Is there a policy on behavior?

We anticipate and expect excellent behavior from visiting scouts. Scout leaders are expected to maintain responsibility for their troops while visiting. We will not be asking scouts and parents to sign behavior agreements this year. However, we trust that each troop will act appropriately while visiting our school and hospitals.

Inappropriate behavior includes any behavior that is not consistent with the Scout Oath and Scout Law. This includes, but is not limited to, being disobedient to scout leaders and/or Open House staff or being unfriendly, discourteous, or unkind to any person. Any kind of vandalism or inappropriate treatment of animals is also prohibited. We ask that scout leaders review appropriate behavior before arriving at the event.

By registering for the Boy Scout Veterinary Medicine Merit Badge program, individuals are agreeing to meet the behavioral requirements described above. Individuals or troops who cannot meet these behavioral requirements will be asked to leave the event.

Additional Resources

American Veterinary Medicine Association

(<http://www.avma.org>)

Brochures (can be ordered or viewed on the website)

Access any of the following brochures by going to
http://www.avma.org/animal_health/brochures/default.asp

Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences

(<http://www.cvm.tamu.edu>)

Admissions, pre-professional credit & course requirements, animal experience, veterinary schools, etc

To explore these topics go to
<http://www.cvm.tamu.edu/dcvn/admissions/index.shtml>. Or, from the veterinary school website, select “Doctor of Veterinary Medicine”, then click “Admissions”.

Texas Veterinary Medical Association

(<http://www.tvma.org>)

Association of American Veterinary Medical Colleges

(<http://aavmc.org/>)

Other Resources

National Association of Veterinary Technicians in America

(<http://www.navta.net>)

The Human Animal Bond Trust

(<http://www.humananimalbondtrust.org/>)

American Association of Feline Practitioners (<http://www.aafponline.org/>)

American Association of Equine Practitioners (<http://www.aaep.org/>)

American Association of Bovine Practitioners (<http://www.aabp.org/>)

American Association of Swine Veterinarians (<http://www.aasv.org/>)

American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners (<http://www.aasrp.org/>)

Association of Exotic Mammal Veterinarians (<http://www.aemv.org/>)
Association of Reptilian and Amphibian Veterinarians (<http://www.arav.org/>)
Association of Avian Veterinarians (<http://www.aav.org/>)
American Zoo & Aquarium Association (<http://www.aza.org/>)
Association of Wildlife Veterinarians (<http://www.aawv.net/>)
International Association for Aquatic Animal Medicine (<http://www.iaaam.org/>)