

Cooking, now an Eagle required merit badge, has become more in-depth and rigorous than in previous years. 2014 saw the final summer in which older requirements could be used to complete the badge. At camp last year we saw large class sizes as Scouts rushed to complete Cooking prior to the mandatory implementation of the new curriculum.

The Camping Committee of Greater New York Councils and the leadership of Ten Mile River have established that offering the badge every week in its new form would require executing it in such a way as to potentially diminish the achievement, and ultimately hurt the program (ie: interpreting the requirements too loosely, calling for a large portion of the badge to be completed as prerequisites, and generally cutting corners).

We believe that cooking is a necessary life skill and given that the badge has been elevated to a more advanced level we will be offering it during our Trail to Eagle specialty week. Completing this badge in one week will require that Scouts attend cooking classes, participate in Wednesdays "Cooking Mega Event" as well as join in the Thursday night overnigher previously limited to those attempting Camping and Wilderness Survival Merit Badge. To complete requirement 7, Scouts should bring backpacks and mess kits with them to camp.

Requirement 5 will be treated as a prerequisite.

Scouts participating in Cooking Merit Badge during Eagle Week should come to camp with:

- a copy of their 3 full day menu plan to feed themselves and one adult noting how they've taken into consideration the MyPlate or USDA nutrition model (5)
- their shopping list showing the amount of food needed and projected cost of each meal (5a).
- a document signed by the adult (parent, family member, guardian) served that includes the four meals served, the cooking methods utilized (5c), the cooking time and verification that it was served on time (5d), and the adults review and evaluation on presentation and taste. This note will require additional signature by the Scout Master validating its authenticity.