

American Cultures

Merit Badge Workbook

Merit badges are earned by doing: reading the pamphlet, practicing the skills, and showing your counselor what you have learned.
This workbook gives you a place to organize your notes and track your progress along the way.
Merit badge counselors may not require the use of this or any similar workbook.
You still must satisfy your counselor that you can demonstrate each skill and have learned the information.
Use the space under each requirement to note what you have done and what you want to talk about, not to write out full answers.
When a requirement says discuss, show, tell, explain, or demonstrate, that is what you must do.
No one may add to or subtract from the official requirements found on scouting.org (Guide to Advancement 7.0.4.8).
Scouting America last updated this badge's requirements page on September 19, 2025.
Requirements change from time to time. Double-check scouting.org before you start.

Scout's name: _____ Unit: _____ Date started: _____

Counselor's name: _____ Phone no.: _____ Email: _____

Links marked "Scouting America resources" are the ones Scouting America shares on its official badge page.
Links marked "ScoutSmarts" open the matching part of Cole's guide. This workbook is unofficial and not endorsed by Scouting America.

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1. Do TWO of the following, choosing a different group for each:

Scouting America resources: Race, Ethnicity, and Culture (video) · Jellybean—Defining Race, Ethnicity, and Nationality (video) Learn a New Culture (video)

☐ **(a)** Go to a festival, celebration, or other event identified with one of the groups. Report on what you see and learn.

Group _____ Festival, celebration, or event _____ Date _____

My report: what I saw and learned

☐ **(b)** Go to a place of worship, school, or other institution identified with one of the groups. Report on what you see and learn.

Group _____ Place of worship, school, or institution _____ Date _____

My report: what I saw and learned

☐ **(c)** Talk with a person from one of the groups about the heritage and traditions of the group. Report on what you learn.

Group | Person I talked with | Date

My report: what I learned about the group's heritage and traditions

☐ **(d)** Learn a song, dance, poem, or story that is traditional to one group, and teach it to a group of your friends.

Group | Song, dance, poem, or story I learned

Friends I taught it to | Date

How teaching it went

☐ **(e)** Go to a library or museum to see a program or exhibit featuring one group's traditions. Report on what you see and learn.

Scouting America resources: Find a Museum (website)

Group | Library or museum, and program or exhibit | Date

My report: what I saw and learned

Requirement 1 completed on | counselor initials

2. Imagine that one of the groups had always lived alone in a city or country to which no other groups ever came. Tell what you think the city or country might be like today. Now tell what you think it might be like if the three groups you chose lived there at the same time.

ScoutSmarts: Requirement 2 explained

Group 1 | Group 2 | Group 3

If one group had always lived there alone: what the city or country might be like today

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If all three groups lived there at the same time: what it might be like

Requirement 2 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

3. Tell about some differences between the religious and social customs of the three groups. Tell about some ideas or ways of doing things that are similar in the three groups.

Scouting America resources: Cultural Diversity in Communication (video) · What Is Cross-Cultural Communication? (video) How To Master Cross-Cultural Communication? (video) · **ScoutSmarts:** Requirement 3 explained

Differences in customs

Group	Religious customs	Social customs

Ideas or ways of doing things that are similar in all three groups

Requirement 3 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

4. Tell about a contribution made to our country by three different people, each from a different racial, ethnic, or religious background.

Scouting America resources: Black History Heroes (video)
Famous Americans for Kids | Pioneers, Artists, Authors, and Inventors (video) · **ScoutSmarts:** Requirement 4 explained

Three people and their contributions

Person	Racial, ethnic, or religious background	Their contribution to our country

Requirement 4 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

5. Give a talk to your Scout unit or class at school on how people from different groups have gotten along together. Lead a discussion on what can be done to help various groups understand one another better.

ScoutSmarts: Requirement 5 explained

Scout unit or class _____ Date _____

My talk: how people from different groups have gotten along together

Questions to lead our discussion on helping groups understand one another better

Ideas the group came up with

Requirement 5 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

Counselor sign-off

Your counselor signs your blue card or approves the badge in Scoutbook, and your unit records it. This line is for your own records.

Counselor's signature _____ Date completed _____

Official Scouting America resources

Scouting America resources: American Cultures merit badge page (requirements and resources)
American Cultures merit badge pamphlet (free PDF) · All merit badges · **ScoutSmarts:** American Cultures Merit Badge Guide

Made by Cole at ScoutSmarts.com, an Eagle Scout who loves helping Scouts.
Spot an error or a requirement change? Tell me at scoutsmarts.com/contact.
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