

Animation

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.
This workbook is unofficial and not endorsed by Scouting America.

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1. General Knowledge. Do the following:

(a) In your own words, describe to your counselor what animation is.

Scouting America resources: What Is Animation? (video)

What animation is, in my own words

(b) Discuss with your counselor a brief history of animation.

Scouting America resources: A Brief History of Animation (video) · Discover Japan's First Anime: Hidden History! (video)

My notes on the history of animation

Requirement 1 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

2. Principles of Animation. Choose five of the following 12 principles of animation, and discuss how each one makes an animation appear more believable: squash and stretch, anticipation, staging, straight ahead action and pose to pose, follow through and overlapping action, slow in and slow out, arcs, secondary action, timing, exaggeration, solid drawing, and appeal.

Scouting America resources: The 12 Principles of Animation Explained - The Most Important Rules for Animating (video)
12 Principles of Animation (video)

Five principles of animation I chose

Principle	How it makes an animation appear more believable

Requirement 2 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

3. Projects. With your counselor's approval, choose two animation techniques and do the following for each:

Counselor approved my two techniques on _____

(a) Technique 1

Scouting America resources: Pencil2D | Learn 2D Animation Tutorial Overview (video) · OpenToonz (video) · StoryBoarder (video)

Technique 1 _____ Paper or software used _____

(1) Plan your animation using thumbnail sketches and/or layout drawings either on paper or using an animation software program.

My thumbnail sketches or layout drawings (draw here or attach)

(2) Create the animation.

Date finished _____ What my animation shows _____

(3) Share your animations with your counselor. Explain how you created each one, and discuss any improvements that could be made.

Date shared with counselor _____

How I created it

Improvements that could be made

(b) Technique 2

Scouting America resources: How to Make a Flipbook (video) · How to Make Flipbook Animation Machine at Home (video)
FlipAnim: How to Make Flipbook Animations Online (website)

Technique 2 | Paper or software used

(1) Plan your animation using thumbnail sketches and/or layout drawings.

My thumbnail sketches or layout drawings (draw here or attach)

(2) Create the animation.

Date finished | What my animation shows

(3) Share your animations with your counselor. Explain how you created each one, and discuss any improvements that could be made.

Date shared with counselor

How I created it

Improvements that could be made

Requirement 3 completed on | counselor initials

4. Animation in our World. Do the following:

(a) Tour an animation studio or a business where animation is used, either in person, via video, or via the internet. Share what you have learned with your counselor.

Scouting America resources: What It's Like Working at Disney Animation & Studio Tour (video)
CGI Dreamworks Animation Studio Pipeline (video) · What It's Like to Work at Pixar Animation Studios (video)
'Inside Out 2' Creatives Give Emily Uribe an Exclusive Pixar Studio Tour (video)

Studio or business I toured | Date | In person, video, or internet

What I learned

(b) Discuss with your counselor how animation might be used in the future to make your life more enjoyable and productive.

Scouting America resources: A Deep Dive Into the Present and Future of Animation (website with videos)
AI Short Film: The Future of Animation in Cinematic Style (video)

How animation might make my life more enjoyable and productive in the future

Requirement 4 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

5. Careers. Learn about three career opportunities in animation. Pick one and find out about the education, training, and experience required for this profession. Discuss your findings with your counselor. Explain why this profession might interest you.

Scouting America resources: Animation as a Career Choice (video)

Three careers in animation

Career	What the job involves

The one I picked: education, training, and experience required

Why this profession might interest me

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: Animation merit badge page (requirements and resources) · Animation merit badge pamphlet (free PDF)
All merit badges

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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