

Architecture

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 26, 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. Do the following:

(a) Tour your community and list the different types of buildings you see. Try to identify buildings that can be associated with a specific period of history or style of architecture. Make a sketch of the building you most admire.
Scouting America resources: Architect Explores Washington, D.C.'s Oldest Neighborhood (Georgetown) | Architectural Digest (video)

Buildings I saw on my community tour

Type of building	Where I saw it	Period of history or style (if I can tell)

The building I most admire _____ Date of my tour _____

My sketch of the building I most admire (draw here or attach)

(b) Select a historical architectural achievement that has had a major impact on society. Using resources such as the internet (with your parent or guardian's permission), books, and magazines, find out how this achievement has influenced the world today. Tell your counselor what you learned.

Scouting America resources: Stonehenge Architecture History /United Kingdom Architecture History (video)
Architectural Milestones: 10 Buildings That Changed the World (video)
How This Famous Architect Changed America | Architectural Digest (video)

Historical achievement I chose

How this achievement has influenced the world today

Resources I used (internet, books, magazines)

Requirement 1 completed on counselor initials

2. In following the Leave No Trace Seven Principles and the Outdoor Code, Scouts pledge to "Travel and camp on durable surfaces" and to "Leave what you find" and to "Be conservation-minded." Discuss the following with your counselor:

(a) The term sustainable architecture. Identify three features typical of green buildings.

Scouting America resources: Characteristics of Sustainable or Green Architecture | Architecture Explained (video)

Sustainable architecture in my own words

Three features typical of green buildings

Feature	How it helps

(b) The difference between renewable building materials and recycled building materials, and how each can be used in construction.

Scouting America resources: 16 Sustainable and Cost-Effective Building Materials (website)
18 Eco-Friendly Building Materials That Help You Save Energy and the Earth (website)
Understanding the Benefits of Recycled and Renewable Building Materials (website)
What Are the Benefits of Using Recycled Building Materials? (website)

Renewable and recycled building materials

Kind of material	What it means	How it can be used in construction
Renewable building materials		
Recycled building materials		

The difference between them

(c) The relationship of architecture with its surrounding environment and the community.

Scouting America resources: Green Architecture Saving the World | Visiting Sustainable Buildings From Across the Planet (video)
Architecuture of NYC Highline (video) · Detroit's $20 billion 5 Mega-Projects Makeover is INSANE (video)

How architecture relates to its surrounding environment and the community

(d) How entire buildings can be reused rather than torn down when they no longer serve their original purpose.

Scouting America resources: Before and After: Buildings Reinvented (video) · 10 Amazing Adaptive Reuse Projects (video)
Taking a Look at 'Building Reuse' (video)

How entire buildings can be reused instead of torn down

Requirement 2 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

3. Do ONE of the following:

☐ **(a)** With your parent or guardian's and counselor's permission and approval, arrange to meet with an architect. Ask to see the scale model of a building and the drawings that a builder would use to construct this building. Discuss why the different building materials were selected. Look at the details in the drawings and the model to see how the materials and components are attached to each other during construction.

Architect I met _____ Building _____ Date _____

☐ Permission from my parent or guardian
☐ Permission and approval from my counselor
☐ Saw the scale model
☐ Saw the drawings a builder would use

Why the different building materials were selected

How the materials and components are attached to each other

☐ **(b)** With your parent or guardian's and counselor's permission and approval, arrange to meet with an architect at a construction site. Ask the architect to bring drawings that the builder uses to construct the building. While at the site, discuss why the different building materials being used were selected. Discuss how the different building materials and components are attached to each other during construction. Note: To visit a construction site will require advance planning. You will need permission from a parent or guardian, counselor, the architect, and the construction site manager. A construction site is a very dangerous place. While there, you will need to closely follow the site manager's directions and comply with all the safety procedures, including wearing a hard hat, protective eyewear, and proper footwear. Be aware of the changing conditions at the site, and stay with the architect or site manager.

Architect I met _____ Construction site _____ Date _____

- ☐ Permission from my parent or guardian
- ☐ Permission and approval from my counselor
- ☐ Permission from the architect
- ☐ Permission from the site manager
- ☐ Wore a hard hat
- ☐ Wore protective eyewear
- ☐ Wore proper footwear
- ☐ Architect brought the drawings

Why the different building materials being used were selected

How the materials and components are attached to each other

☐ **(c)** Interview someone who might be your client (such as a prospective homeowner or business owner) if you were an architect. Find out what your client's requirements would be for designing a new home or business building. Write a short program including a list of requirements for the project, the functions of the building and site, how the functions relate to one another, and the goals of the project.

Scouting America resources: Architects Talk to Clients—First Meeting (video)

Client I interviewed _____ Home or business _____ Date _____

My short program

Part of the program	What my client and I worked out
Requirements for the project	
Functions of the building and site	
How the functions relate to one another	
Goals of the project	

Requirement 3 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

4. Measure a room such as one where you live or where your troop meets. Make an accurately scaled drawing of the room's floor plan showing walls, doors, closets, windows, and any built-in furniture or cabinets. Neatly label your drawing with the following: your name, the date, what room you drew, and the scale of the drawing. (Drawing scale: ¼ inch = 1 foot)

Scouting America resources: How To Measure a Room Like an Architect (video)
How To Create a Scaled Drawing on Graph Paper | Hand Draw Your Room Like an Interior Designer (video)

Room I measured _____ Where it is _____ Date _____

My measurements

Wall, door, closet, window, or built-in	Measurement	Scaled size on my drawing

My scaled floor plan (draw here or attach graph paper)

- ☐ Walls
- ☐ Doors
- ☐ Closets
- ☐ Windows
- ☐ Built-in furniture or cabinets
- ☐ My name
- ☐ The date
- ☐ What room I drew
- ☐ The scale of the drawing

Requirement 4 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

5. Find out about three career opportunities in architecture. Pick one and find out the education, training, and experience required for this profession. Discuss this with your counselor, and explain why this profession might interest you.

Scouting America resources: Becoming an Architect: More than Floor Plans (video)
Should YOU Study Architecture? (Expectation vs. Reality) (video) · Become an Architect (website) · Careers in Architecture (website)
Architects: Salary, Career Path, Job Outlook, Education and More (website) · Life of an Architect (website)

Three career opportunities in architecture

Career	What this person does

The one I picked

What this profession requires

Area	What I found out
Education	
Training	
Experience	

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: Architecture merit badge page (requirements and resources) · Architecture 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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