

Bugling

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 July 30, 2026.
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. Give a brief history of the bugle.

Scouting America resources: Bugles in American History (video) · The Bugler's Cry - A History of Taps (video)

A brief history of the bugle

Requirement 1 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

2. Do the following:

(a) Explain and demonstrate how the bugle makes sound, and explain how the bugle is related to other brass wind instruments.

Scouting America resources: The Physics of Music: Playing Fire, Ice and Jelly Trumpets (video)

How the bugle makes sound

How the bugle is related to other brass wind instruments

Date I demonstrated _____ Shown to _____

(b) Compose a bugle call for your troop or patrol to signal a common group activity, such as assembling for mealtime or striking a campsite. Play the call that you have composed before your unit or patrol.

Name of my call _____ What it signals _____

My call: write the notes here or attach

Played before (unit or patrol) _____ Date _____

Requirement 2 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

3. Sound 10 of the following bugle calls: "First Call," "Reveille," "Assembly," "Mess," "Drill," "Fatigue," "Officers," "Recall," "Church," "Swimming," "Fire," "Retreat," "To the Colors," "Call to Quarters," and "Taps."

Scouting America resources: First Call (video) · Reveille (Awake for Morning Call) (video) · Assembly (video) · Mess (video) Drill (video) · Fatigue (video) · Officers (video) · Recall (video) · Church (video) · Swimming (video) · Fire (video) · Retreat (video) To The Color (video) · Call to Quarters (video) · Taps (video)

- ☐ First Call
- ☐ Reveille
- ☐ Assembly
- ☐ Mess
- ☐ Drill
- ☐ Fatigue
- ☐ Officers
- ☐ Recall
- ☐ Church
- ☐ Swimming
- ☐ Fire
- ☐ Retreat
- ☐ To the Colors
- ☐ Call to Quarters
- ☐ Taps

Date or dates sounded _____ Heard by _____

Requirement 3 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

4. Explain when each of the calls in requirement 3 is used.

Scouting America resources: US Army Bugle Calls Daily Sequence: An Honorable Tradition (video)

When each call is used

Call	When it is used
First Call	
Reveille	
Assembly	
Mess	
Drill	
Fatigue	
Officers	
Recall	
Church	
Swimming	
Fire	
Retreat	
To the Colors	
Call to Quarters	
Taps	

Requirement 4 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

5. Explain how to care for, clean, and maintain a bugle.

Scouting America resources: How to Clean a Bugle...and Dealing With Spit (video)

Looking after my bugle

Task	How I do it
Care for	
Clean	
Maintain	

Requirement 5 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

6. Serve as bugler in your troop for three months.

Started serving on _____ Finished on _____

My three months as troop bugler

Month	Meetings and events I bugled for	Calls I sounded
Month 1		
Month 2		
Month 3		

Requirement 6 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: Bugling merit badge page (requirements and resources) · Bugling 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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