

Camping

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 9, 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.
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 the following:

(a) Explain to your counselor the most likely hazards you may encounter while participating in camping activities and what you should do to anticipate, help prevent, mitigate, and respond to these hazards.

Scouting America resources: Camping Safety Tips (video) · What to Do in a Bear Encounter (and How to Avoid One) (video)

Camping hazards

Hazard	How I anticipate and help prevent it	How I respond

(b) Discuss with your counselor why it is important to be aware of weather conditions before and during your camping activities. Tell how you can prepare should the weather turn bad during your campouts.

Scouting America resources: 5 Mistakes EVERY New Camper Makes in WET WEATHER (video) · Cold Weather Camping Tips (video)
ScoutSmarts: Requirement 1b explained

Why weather matters, and how I check it before and during a campout

(c) Show that you know first aid for and how to prevent injuries or illnesses that could occur while camping, including hypothermia, frostbite, heat reactions, dehydration, altitude sickness, insect stings, tick bites, snakebite, blisters, and hyperventilation.

Scouting America resources: Outdoor Emergency Plan (website) · First Aid for Snakebites (video) · Types of Heat Reactions (website)
ScoutSmarts: Requirement 1c explained

First aid and prevention

Condition	How to prevent it	First aid
hypothermia		
frostbite		
heat reactions		
dehydration		
altitude sickness		
insect stings		
tick bites		
snakebite		
blisters		
hyperventilation		

Requirement 1 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

2. Learn the Leave No Trace Seven Principles and the Outdoor Code, and explain what they mean. Write a personal and group plan for implementing these principles on your next outing.

Scouting America resources: Principles of LNT (video) · The Outdoor Code (website) · LNT/Outdoor Code Planning (PDF)
ScoutSmarts: Requirement 2 explained

Leave No Trace Seven Principles and the Outdoor Code

Principle or Outdoor Code line	What it means

My personal plan for our next outing

Our group plan for our next outing

Requirement 2 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

3. Make a written plan for an overnight trek and show how to get to your camping spot by using a topographical map and one of the following:

Scouting America resources: How to Read a Topographic Map (video) · Scouting America Planning Worksheet (PDF)

Destination _____ Date _____ Map used _____

My written plan for the overnight trek (route, distances, checkpoints)

☐ **(a)** Compass

Scouting America resources: How to Use a Compass (video)

How I used the compass with the map

☐ **(b)** GPS receiver

Scouting America resources: Using a GPS with a Map and Compass (video)

How I used the GPS receiver with the map

☐ **(c)** Smartphone with a GPS app

Scouting America resources: How to Use a Smartphone as a GPS (website)

How I used the GPS app with the map

Requirement 3 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

4. Do the following:

(a) Make a duty roster showing how your patrol is organized for an actual overnight campout. List assignments for each member.

My patrol duty roster

Job	Scout	When

(b) Help a Scout patrol or a Webelos Scout unit in your area prepare for an actual campout, including creating the duty roster, menu planning, equipment needs, general planning, and setting up camp.

Patrol or Webelos unit I helped _____ Campout date _____

What I helped them prepare

Requirement 4 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

5. Do the following:

(a) Prepare a list of clothing you would need for overnight campouts in both warm and cold weather. Explain the term "layering."

Scouting America resources: Cold Weather Gear (website) · Warm Weather Gear (website) · **ScoutSmarts:** Requirement 5a explained

Clothing list

Warm-weather campout	Cold-weather campout

What layering means

(b) Discuss footwear for different kinds of weather and how the right footwear is important for protecting your feet.

Scouting America resources: The ONE Tip You Need to Choose Between Hiking Boots, Shoes, and Trail Runners (video)
ScoutSmarts: Requirement 5b explained

Footwear for different weather, and why it matters

(c) Explain the proper care and storage of camping equipment (clothing, footwear, bedding).

Scouting America resources: How to Clean and Store Camping Gear (website) · **ScoutSmarts:** Requirement 5c explained

Care and storage of clothing, footwear and bedding

(d) List the Scout Basic Essentials necessary for any campout, and explain why each item is needed.

Scouting America resources: 10 Essentials for Scout Camping (website) · The 10 Scout Basic Outdoor Essentials (website)
ScoutSmarts: Requirement 5d explained

Scout Basic Essentials

Item	Why it's needed

(e) Present yourself to your Scoutmaster with your pack for inspection. Be correctly clothed and equipped for an overnight campout.

ScoutSmarts: Requirement 5e explained

Inspection date | Scoutmaster

Requirement 5 completed on | counselor initials

6. Do the following:

(a) Describe the features of four types of tents, when and where they could be used, and how to care for tents. Working with another Scout, pitch a tent.

Scouting America resources: Types of Tents (video) · Choosing a Tent (website) · **ScoutSmarts:** Requirement 6a explained

Four types of tents

Tent type	Features	When and where to use it

How to care for a tent

Tent pitched with _____ Date _____

(b) Discuss the importance of camp sanitation and tell why water treatment is essential. Then demonstrate two ways to treat water.

Scouting America resources: Types of Water Purification (video) · How to Wash Dishes at Camp (video)

ScoutSmarts: Requirement 6b explained

Why sanitation and water treatment matter

Treatment method 1 _____ Treatment method 2 _____

(c) Describe the factors to be considered in deciding where to pitch your tent.

Scouting America resources: How to Pick a Campsite (video) · How to Choose a GREAT Campsite *AVOID THESE MISTAKES* (video)

ScoutSmarts: Requirement 6c explained

What to consider when picking a tent site

(d) Tell the difference between internal- and external-frame packs. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of each.

Scouting America resources: How to Choose a Backpack (video) · **ScoutSmarts:** Requirement 6d explained

Pack type	Advantages	Disadvantages
Internal frame		
External frame		

(e) Discuss the types of sleeping bags and what kind would be suitable for different conditions. Explain the proper care of your sleeping bag and how to keep it dry. Make a comfortable ground bed.

Scouting America resources: Choosing a Sleeping Bag (video) · Backpacking Bags (video) · Caring for a Sleeping Bag (video) Cleaning a Sleeping Bag (video) · **ScoutSmarts:** Requirement 6e explained

Sleeping bag type	Best conditions for it

Care and storage of a sleeping bag

Requirement 6 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

7. Prepare for an overnight campout with your patrol by doing the following:

(a) Make a checklist of personal and patrol gear that will be needed.

Campout checklist

Personal gear	Patrol gear

(b) Pack your own gear and your share of the patrol equipment and food for proper carrying. Show that your pack is right for quickly getting what is needed first, and that it has been assembled properly for comfort, weight, balance, size, and neatness.

Scouting America resources: How to Pack a Backpack for Easy Access and Comfort (video)

Pack checked by _____ Date _____

Requirement 7 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

8. Do the following:

(a) Explain the safety procedures for:

ScoutSmarts: Requirement 8a explained

(1) Using a propane or butane/propane stove

Scouting America resources: How to Use a Propane Stove (video)

(2) Using a liquid fuel stove

Scouting America resources: How to Use a Liquid Fuel Stove (video)

(3) Proper storage of extra fuel

(b) Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of different types of lightweight cooking stoves.

Scouting America resources: Canister vs Liquid Fuel Stoves (video) · **ScoutSmarts:** Requirement 8b explained

Stove type	Advantages	Disadvantages

(c) Prepare a camp menu. Explain how the menu would differ from a menu for a backpacking or float trip. Give recipes and make a food list for your patrol. Plan two breakfasts, three lunches, and two suppers. Discuss how to protect your food against bad weather, animals, and contamination.

Scouting America resources: Food Storage & Protection: Techniques for Bears & Mini-Bears (video) · **ScoutSmarts:** Requirement 8c explained

Patrol menu

Meal	What we'll eat (recipes on the back or attached)	Food list
Breakfast 1		
Breakfast 2		
Lunch 1		
Lunch 2		
Lunch 3		
Supper 1		
Supper 2		

How this menu would differ for a backpacking or float trip

Protecting our food from bad weather, animals and contamination

(d) While camping in the outdoors, cook at least one breakfast, one lunch, and one dinner for your patrol from the meals you have planned for requirement 8(c). At least one of those meals must be a trail meal requiring the use of a lightweight stove.

ScoutSmarts: Requirement 8d explained

Meal	Date	What I cooked for the patrol
Breakfast		
Lunch		
Dinner		

Requirement 8 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

9. Show experience in camping by doing the following:

(a) Camp for at least 20 nights at designated Scouting activities or events. One long-term camping experience of up to six consecutive nights may be applied toward this requirement. Two nights may be counted toward the total for each additional long-term camping trip. Each night must be spent either under the sky, in a tent you have pitched yourself (if a tent is provided and already set up, you do not need to pitch your own), in a hammock that is safely strung outdoors, in a lean-to, or other three-sided shelter with an open front. Nights spent in indoor lock-in events, cabin camping, hotel stays, or other covered accommodations do not count toward the 20 nights.

My camping nights (20 needed)

Dates	Event or location	Shelter (tent, hammock, lean-to, under the sky)	Nights

My camping nights (20 needed) (continued)

Dates	Event or location	Shelter (tent, hammock, lean-to, under the sky)	Nights

Total nights

(b) On any of these camping experiences, you must do TWO of the following, only with proper preparation and under qualified supervision.

ScoutSmarts: Requirement 9b explained

☐ **(1)** Hike up a mountain, gaining at least 1,000 vertical feet.
Scouting America resources: Training for Elevation Gain (video)
Date and place

☐ **(2)** Backpack, snowshoe, or cross-country ski for at least 4 miles.
Scouting America resources: Learn to Snowshoe (video)
Date and place

☐ **(3)** Take a bike trip of at least 15 miles or at least four hours.
Scouting America resources: What I Wish I Knew Before Bikepacking (video)
Date and place

☐ **(4)** Take a nonmotorized trip on the water of at least four hours or 5 miles.
Scouting America resources: Canoeing With LNT (video)
Date and place

☐ **(5)** Plan and carry out an overnight snow camping experience.
Scouting America resources: Winter Camping Tips (video)
Date and place

☐ **(6)** Rappel down a rappel route of 30 feet or more.
Scouting America resources: How to Rapel (video)
Date and place

(c) On any of these camping experiences, perform a conservation project approved by the landowner or land managing agency. This can be done alone or with others.

Scouting America resources: Project Planning Checklist (PDF) · **ScoutSmarts:** Requirement 9c explained

Project Date

What I did, and who approved it

Requirement 9 completed on counselor initials

10. Discuss how the things you did to earn this badge have taught you about personal health and safety, survival, public health, conservation, and good citizenship. In your discussion, tell how Scout spirit and the Scout Oath and Scout Law apply to camping and outdoor ethics.

ScoutSmarts: Requirement 10 explained

Personal health and safety

Survival

Public health

Conservation

Good citizenship

How Scout spirit, the Scout Oath and the Scout Law apply to camping and outdoor ethics

Requirement 10 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: Camping merit badge page (requirements and resources) · Camping merit badge pamphlet (free PDF) All merit badges · **ScoutSmarts:** Camping Merit Badge Guide, Part 1 · Camping Merit Badge Guide, Part 2 Camping Merit Badge Guide, Part 3

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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