

Crime Prevention

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 January 27, 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. Laws and Society. Discuss the following with your counselor:

(a) Why we have criminal laws

Scouting America resources: The Purposes of Criminal Law (video)

Why we have criminal laws

(b) The types of crimes, including property crimes, crimes against people, white collar crime, and environmental crime

Scouting America resources: Seven Types of Crime (video)

Types of crimes

Type of crime	What it means, with an example
Property crimes	
Crimes against people	
White collar crime	
Environmental crime	

(c) Why people commit crimes

Scouting America resources: Why Do People Commit Crimes? (video)

Why people commit crimes

(d) Why everyone should follow the law even when no one is watching

Scouting America resources: Why Do We Obey Laws? The Social Contract (video) · Our Social Contract to Follow the Law (video)

Why everyone should follow the law even when no one is watching

(e) The meaning of crime prevention

Scouting America resources: What Is Crime Prevention? (video) · Basic Crime Prevention (video) · **ScoutSmarts:** Requirement 1e explained

What crime prevention means

Requirement 1 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

2. Groups Working to Prevent Crime. Research how the following groups contribute to crime prevention and share your findings with your counselor:

(a) Citizens, including youth

Scouting America resources: Neighbors: The Key to Crime Prevention (video) · How Sport Helps to Prevent Crime (video)
ScoutSmarts: Requirement 2a explained

How citizens, including youth, help prevent crime

(b) Schools

Scouting America resources: Education Efforts Could Prevent Crime (video) · Preventing Crime with Education (video)

How schools help prevent crime

(c) Neighborhood, social, and civic groups, including youth groups

Scouting America resources: Youth Programs Teach Conflict Resolution Skills (video) · Youth Programs Reduce Crime (video)

How these groups help prevent crime

(d) Private security

Scouting America resources: Security Guards Reduce Crime in LA (video) · Private Security and Crime Prevention (video)

How private security helps prevent crime

(e) Law enforcement agencies

Scouting America resources: What is Community Policing? (video) · Community Policing (video) · **ScoutSmarts:** Requirement 2e explained

How law enforcement agencies help prevent crime

(f) Courts

Scouting America resources: Problem-Solving Courts (video) · Colorado's 1st JD Problem Solving Courts (video)

How courts help prevent crime

(g) Corrections and rehabilitation programs

Scouting America resources: How Norway Reinvented Prison (video) · Humane Incarceration (video)

How these programs help prevent crime

Requirement 2 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

3. Crime in Your Community, State, and Nation. Do the following:

(a) With your parent or guardian's permission and the approval of your counselor, research local, state, or national news coverage of three crimes of different types. Research how common these types of crimes are in your state or in the United States.

Scouting America resources: 5 Incredible Prison Rehabilitation Programs (video)
What the Data Says About Crime in the U.S. and Substances (video) · Top 5 Common Crimes in the USA (video)

Permission from parent or guardian _____ Counselor approval _____

Three crimes in the news

Crime	Type of crime	News source and date	How common this type is (state or U.S.)
Crime 1			
Crime 2			
Crime 3			

(b) Record notes on which law enforcement agencies and courts were involved in the pursuit of justice for the victims and the accused person, why you think these crimes were committed, and what could be done to prevent similar crimes. Review your research with your counselor.

Crime 1: agencies and courts involved, why I think it was committed, and what could prevent similar crimes

Crime 2: agencies and courts involved, why I think it was committed, and what could prevent similar crimes

Crime 3: agencies and courts involved, why I think it was committed, and what could prevent similar crimes

Reviewed with my counselor on

Requirement 3 completed on counselor initials

4. Home and Neighborhood Crime Prevention. Do the following:

(a) Discuss the following with your counselor:

(1) How participation in activities of families, churches, sports teams, and clubs prevents crime

Scouting America resources: Church Members Escape Crime-Ridden Lives (video)
How Can Boxing Clubs Help Prevent Crime (video)

How these activities help prevent crime

Activity	How participation helps prevent crime
Families	
Churches	
Sports teams	
Clubs	

(2) How designs of houses, neighborhoods, public buildings, stores, streets, and parks prevent crime

Scouting America resources: What Is CPTED? (video) · Designing Out Crime: CPTED (video)

Designs that prevent crime

Place	Design features that help prevent crime
Houses	
Neighborhoods	
Public buildings	
Stores	
Streets	
Parks	

(b) Conduct a security survey of a home, a neighborhood, a park, or a camp building with adult supervision and following youth protection guidelines using a security checklist in the Crime Prevention merit badge pamphlet or one approved by your counselor.

Scouting America resources: Home Security Checklists # 1 and # 2 (PDF) · Camp Security Checklists # 1 and # 2 (PDF) 12 Ways to Protect Your Home While You're Away (video) · How To Secure Your Home (website) · **ScoutSmarts:** Requirement 4b explained

Place I surveyed _____ Date _____ Adult supervising _____

Checklist I used _____

What my survey found

Area checked	What I found	What could be improved

(c) Use information from your survey for requirement 4(b) and the EDGE method to develop a lesson about how a family or Scouts can protect themselves from crime. Review your teaching plan with your counselor, then present your lesson to your family or to Scouts.

Scouting America resources: The EDGE Method of Teaching (PDF)

Topic of my lesson _____ Who I taught _____

My teaching plan

Step	What I will do
Explain	
Demonstrate	
Guide	
Enable	

Plan reviewed with counselor on _____ Lesson presented on _____

Requirement 4 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

5. Retail Crime Prevention. Research the following topics and review them with your counselor:

(a) The impact of shoplifting and employee theft (also known as shrinkage) and loss prevention on retail finances, customer service, and reputation

Scouting America resources: The Impact of Shoplifting on the Retail Industry (video)

The impact of shrinkage and loss prevention

Area	What I learned
Retail finances	
Customer service	
Reputation	

(b) Techniques used by retail stores to prevent shoplifting

Scouting America resources: How To Prevent Shoplifting (video) · Retail Loss Prevention Techniques (video)

How stores prevent shoplifting

Technique	How it works

Requirement 5 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

6. Reporting Crime. Discuss the following with your counselor:

(a) When and how to report a crime or an impending crime

Scouting America resources: How To Report a Crime (video) · How To Report a Crime—Public Safety Minute (video)

When to report a crime or an impending crime

How to report it

(b) The warning signs for child abuse and domestic violence and how to report these situations

Warning signs of child abuse and domestic violence

How to report these situations

(c) The three R's of personal safety and how to apply them

ScoutSmarts: Requirement 6c explained

The three R's of personal safety

R	What it means	How I would apply it

(d) How reporting a crime can help law enforcement provide resources for crime victims

Scouting America resources: Importance of Reporting Crime (video)

How reporting helps victims get resources

Requirement 6 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

7. Peers and Crime. Discuss the following with your counselor:

(a) The role that peers play in crime, crime prevention, and experiencing crime

Scouting America resources: Adolescent Risk-Takers: The Power of Peers (video)

The role peers play

Area	The role peers play
Crime	
Crime prevention	
Experiencing crime	

(b) How to resist peer influence

Scouting America resources: Positive Peer Influences (video) · Managing Peer Pressure (video)

Ways I can resist peer influence

(c) Bullying and hazing behaviors and signs that a friend may be bullying you or someone else

Scouting America resources: Protect Yourself Rules—Bullying (video) · The Basics of Bullying (video) Bullying and How To Stop It (video)

Bullying and hazing behaviors

Signs a friend may be bullying you or someone else

(d) The impact of gangs on communities

Scouting America resources: How Gangs Affect Communities (website) · **ScoutSmarts:** Requirement 7d explained

How gangs affect communities

Requirement 7 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

8. Substance Use and Crime. Discuss the following with your counselor:

(a) The legal and health consequences of using alcohol, tobacco and vaping products, illegal drugs, and diverted prescription drugs

Scouting America resources: The Science of Addiction (video) · Electronic Cigarettes and Vaping (video) Legal Consequences of Drugs (video) · Drug Abuse, Causes, Signs and Symptoms, Diagnosis and Treatment (video)

ScoutSmarts: Requirement 8a explained

Consequences of substance use

Substance	Legal consequences	Health consequences
Alcohol		
Tobacco and vaping products		
Illegal drugs		
Diverted prescription drugs		

(b) How substance use contributes to violence and property crime and increases a person's risk of becoming a victim of crime

Scouting America resources: Drugs and Crime (website) · Crimes Related to Drugs (website)

How substance use contributes to violence

How it contributes to property crime

How it increases a person's risk of becoming a victim

(c) How drug abuse awareness, prevention, and recovery programs help prevent crime

Scouting America resources: Reduce Crime AND Save Money (video) · **ScoutSmarts:** Requirement 8c explained

How awareness, prevention, and recovery programs help prevent crime

(d) How to get help if you or someone you know needs help with drugs or alcohol

Scouting America resources: Finding Help for Drug and Alcohol Disorders (website) Treatment Choices for Substance Use Disorders (video)

Where and how to get help

Requirement 8 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

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9. Online Crime and You. Discuss the following with your counselor:

(a) How to avoid being the victim of online crimes

Scouting America resources: Top 10 Cyber Crimes (video) · Protect Your Personal Information From Hackers and Scammers (website)

How to avoid being a victim of online crime

(b) Common online financial scams

Scouting America resources: Common Online Scams (video)

Common online financial scams

Scam	How it works	How to spot it

(c) Effective online security

Scouting America resources: Effective Online Security (video) · Digital Safety (video) · **ScoutSmarts:** Requirement 9c explained

What effective online security looks like

(d) Identity theft and how to prevent it

Scouting America resources: Preventing Identity Theft (video) · How To Prevent Identity Theft (video)

What identity theft is

How to prevent it

(e) How criminals use social media to target victims

Scouting America resources: How Criminals Use Social Media (video)

How criminals use social media to target victims

(f) How bullying, texting, and sharing photos can become crimes

Scouting America resources: Bullying Awareness (website)
Prevention: Learn How To Identify Bullying and Stand Up to It Safely (website) · Top 10 Forms of Cyber Bullying (video) · Bullying (video)

When it becomes a crime

Action	How it can become a crime
Bullying	
Texting	
Sharing photos	

Requirement 9 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

10. Interview. With your parent or guardian's permission and your counselor's approval, interview a law enforcement officer or a civil servant about their work in crime prevention. Learn about how they chose this career and about their duties. Discuss what you learned with your counselor.

Permission from parent or guardian _____ Counselor approval _____

Person I interviewed _____ Their job _____ Date _____

Their work in crime prevention

How they chose this career

Their duties

Requirement 10 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

11. Careers. Identify three career opportunities that would use skills and knowledge in the field of crime prevention. Pick one and research the training, education, certification requirements, experience, and expenses associated with entering the field. Research the prospects for employment, starting salary, advancement opportunities and career goals associated with this career. Discuss what you learned with your counselor and whether you might be interested in this career.

Scouting America resources: 8 Careers in Criminal Justice (video) · How Law Enforcement Agencies Serve the Public (video)

Three careers in crime prevention

Career	Skills and knowledge it uses

The one I picked

What I found about it

Topic	What I found
Training	
Education	
Certification requirements	
Experience	
Expenses	
Prospects for employment	
Starting salary	
Advancement opportunities	
Career goals	

Might I be interested in this career? Why or why not

Requirement 11 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: Crime Prevention merit badge page (requirements and resources)
Crime Prevention merit badge pamphlet (free PDF) · All merit badges · **ScoutSmarts:** Crime Prevention Merit Badge Guide, Part 1
Crime Prevention Merit Badge Guide, Part 2

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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