

Fire Safety

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 May 5, 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. Science of and Hazards of Fire. Do the following:

(a) Explain the concept of fire.

Scouting America resources: Is Fire a Solid, a Liquid, or a Gas? (video) · What Is Fire? (video) · **ScoutSmarts:** Requirement 1a explained

The concept of fire, in my words

(b) Name the parts of the fire tetrahedron and the products of combustion.

Scouting America resources: Understanding the Fire Tetrahedron (video)
Fire Tetrahedron | What Are the Elements Required in Order To Ignite Fire (video) · Science Spotlight: The Combustion of Wood (video)
Fire and Flame 09—Hydrocarbon Combustion Products (video) · **ScoutSmarts:** Requirement 1b explained

Parts of the fire tetrahedron	Products of combustion

(c) Describe the life cycle of a fire.

Scouting America resources: Fire Safety Stages of Fire (video) · Stages of a Fire (video) · The Stages of Fire (video)

The life cycle of a fire

(d) Explain the three methods of heat transfer.

Scouting America resources: Heat Transfer (video)

Three methods of heat transfer

Method	How it moves heat

Requirement 1 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

2. Fire Extinguishers. Do the following:

(a) Explain the different classes of fires.

Scouting America resources: The 5 Different Classes of Fires (video)

Classes of fires

Class	What is burning

(b) Identify the different classes of fire extinguishers and which should be used for each class of fire.

Scouting America resources: Choose the Right Fire Extinguisher (video) · Types of Fire Extinguishers (website w/ video)

Classes of fire extinguishers

Extinguisher class	Which class of fire it is used for

(c) Demonstrate how to use a fire extinguisher and a fire blanket.

Scouting America resources: How To Use a Fire Extinguisher (video) · How To Use a Fire Extinguisher Using the PASS Method (video) How To Use a Fire Blanket (video)

Date _____ Demonstrated to _____

☐ Fire extinguisher
☐ Fire blanket

Requirement 2 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

3. Fire-related Injuries. Do the following:

(a) Explain and demonstrate the technique of stop, drop, roll, cool, and call.

Scouting America resources: Stop, Drop, Roll, Cool, Call (video) · Stop, Drop, and Roll (website)
Stop, Drop, Roll, Cover Your Face (video) · Stop, Drop, and Roll (video)

Step	What I do
Stop	
Drop	
Roll	
Cool	
Call	

Demonstrated on

(b) Describe how clothing fires occur, how to prevent them, and how clothing can prevent or contribute to burn injuries.

Scouting America resources: Flame Resistant Fabric Demonstration (video)

Clothing fires

Topic	My notes
How clothing fires occur	
How to prevent them	
How clothing can prevent burn injuries	
How clothing can contribute to burn injuries	

(c) Identify the most frequent causes of burn injuries and how to prevent them.

Scouting America resources: How Common Burns Are, and How They Are Caused (video) · **ScoutSmarts:** Requirement 3c explained

Frequent causes of burn injuries

Cause	How to prevent it

(d) Review the prevention of, symptoms and signs of, and treatment of airway burns and carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

Scouting America resources: Burn Prevention Tips From Nurses (video) · Signs and Treatment for Carbon Monoxide Poisoning (video)

	Airway burns	Carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning
Prevention		
Symptoms and signs		
Treatment		

Requirement 3 completed on counselor initials

4. Origins of Fires. Do the following:

(a) Explain the four classifications of fire origin (natural, accidental, incendiary, or undetermined) and give an example of each.

Scouting America resources: Undetermined Cause: What's That About (website)

Four classifications of fire origin

Classification	What it means	An example
Natural		
Accidental		
Incendiary		
Undetermined		

(b) Describe how a fire classified as incendiary might lead to criminal prosecution of a person charged with arson.

Scouting America resources: Criminal Law: The Crime of Arson (video)

How an incendiary fire might lead to an arson prosecution

Requirement 4 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

5. Fire Safety at Home. Do the following:

(a) Describe how to prevent the frequent causes of home fires, including unattended cooking, electricity, smoking, clothes dryers, and rechargeable batteries.

Scouting America resources: 5 Most Common Causes of House Fires (website) · Fireworks and Wildfires (video)

Frequent causes of home fires

Cause	How to prevent it
Unattended cooking	
Electricity	
Smoking	
Clothes dryers	
Rechargeable batteries	

(b) Describe how to prevent frequent causes of seasonal and holiday-related home fires, including fires related to home heating, holiday trees, candles, and fireworks.

Scouting America resources: How To Prevent Holiday Fires (video)

Seasonal and holiday home fires

Cause	How to prevent it
Home heating	
Holiday trees	
Candles	
Fireworks	

(c) Demonstrate how to safely light and extinguish a candle. Discuss with your counselor, then with your family, how to safely use candles.

Scouting America resources: How To Properly Extinguish a Candle (video) · **ScoutSmarts:** Requirement 5c explained

Date _____ Demonstrated to _____

- ☐ Lit a candle safely
- ☐ Put it out safely
- ☐ Discussed candle safety with my counselor
- ☐ Discussed candle safety with my family

How to safely use candles

(d) Using the Home Fire Safety Checklist in the Fire Safety merit badge pamphlet or one approved by your counselor, and with the help of an adult, inspect a home (or a similar building near where you live or at a camp) for fire safety hazards. Present your completed checklist to your counselor and discuss your findings.

Scouting America resources: Home Fire Safety Checklists (PDF)

Building I inspected _____ Adult who helped _____ Date _____

Fire safety hazards I found

Hazard	Where	What should be done

- ☐ Presented my completed checklist to my counselor

(e) Determine if, and what types of, smoke and CO alarms are required in homes in your community. List what types of smoke and CO alarms your home has, their locations, and their expiration dates.

Scouting America resources: Understanding Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors (video)
Types of Smoke Detectors (website w/ video) · Where to Place and Install a Carbon Monoxide Detector (website)

Smoke and CO alarms required in homes in my community

Alarms in my home

Type of alarm	Location	Expiration date

(f) Demonstrate maintenance of smoke and CO alarms to your counselor and review plans to replace expired alarms.

Scouting America resources: Home Smoke Alarm Testing and Maintenance (video) · Smoke Alarm Maintenance (video)

Date _____ Demonstrated to _____

My plan to replace expired alarms

(g) Develop a home fire-escape plan and a fire-drill schedule with your family, draw a floor plan of your home with exits marked and a map showing your family meeting point, and conduct a home fire drill.

Scouting America resources: How To Survive a Fire (video) · Home Fire Escape Plans (website) · Home Fire Escape Plans (PDF)

ScoutSmarts: Requirement 5g explained

Our home fire-escape plan

Our fire-drill schedule

Planned date	Who takes part	Done

Floor plan of my home with exits marked, and a map to our family meeting point (draw here or attach)

Home fire drill held on _____ Meeting point _____

(h) Explain what to do and what not to do if you smell natural gas and if you smell smoke.
Scouting America resources: Gas Explosion Prevention (video) · What To Do if You Smell Gas (video)
ScoutSmarts: Requirement 5h explained

If I smell	What to do	What not to do
Natural gas		
Smoke		

(i) Explain how you would report a fire to have the fire department respond.
Scouting America resources: How To Call 911 (video) · What Happens When You Call 911 (video) · **ScoutSmarts:** Requirement 5i explained

How I would report a fire

Requirement 5 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

6. Safety with Flammable and Combustible Liquids. Do the following:

(a) Explain what flammable and combustible liquids are commonly used in homes and how to safely store them.
Scouting America resources: Flammable Liquids (video) · Storing Flammable Liquids Safely (video) · **ScoutSmarts:** Requirement 6a explained

Flammable and combustible liquids in homes

Liquid	How to store it safely

(b) Describe the safe way to refuel a liquid-fueled engine, such as a lawn mower, outboard motor, farm machine, or automobile with fuel from an approved container.
Scouting America resources: How To Pump Gas (video) · **ScoutSmarts:** Requirement 6b explained

The safe way to refuel a liquid-fueled engine

(c) Describe the options available for safely disposing of unwanted flammable, combustible, and hazardous substances in your community.

Scouting America resources: How To Dispose of Gasoline (video) · How To Dispose of Old Gasoline (video)

Disposal options in my community

Substance	Where or how to dispose of it safely

Requirement 6 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

7. Fire Safety in Public Buildings. Do the following:

(a) Explain how public buildings are designed for fire safety.

Scouting America resources: Fire Safety in High-Rise Buildings (website) · Fire Safety in Assembly Occupancies (website)

How public buildings are designed for fire safety

(b) Explain what fire safety systems and equipment can be found in public buildings.

Scouting America resources: How To Conduct a Fire Drill (video) · **ScoutSmarts:** Requirement 7b explained

Fire safety systems and equipment in public buildings

System or equipment	What it does

(c) Explain what fire safety precautions you should take when you are in a public building.

Scouting America resources: NFPA Tips for Fire Safety in Public Buildings (website) · **ScoutSmarts:** Requirement 7c explained

Precautions I take in a public building

Requirement 7 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

8. Fire Safety at Camp. Do the following:

(a) Explain how the Leave No Trace Seven Principles and the Outdoor Code apply to camping fires.

Scouting America resources: Leave No Trace Principle 5: Minimize Campfire Impacts (video)

Leave No Trace Seven Principles and camping fires

Principle	How it applies to camping fires

How the Outdoor Code applies to camping fires

(b) Demonstrate lighting a match safely, the proper way to extinguish it, and to dispose of it. Explain the similarities and differences between safety matches and strike-anywhere matches.

Scouting America resources: How To Light a Match (video) · Fire 101 How To Strike Matches (video) · **ScoutSmarts:** Requirement 8b explained

Date _____ Demonstrated to _____

- ☐ Lit the match safely
- ☐ Put it out
- ☐ Disposed of it

Safety matches and strike-anywhere matches	My notes
Similarities	
Differences	

(c) Explain and demonstrate making sparks with flint and steel or with a ferro rod and catching a spark to create a flame. Extinguish the flame safely using one of the principles of the fire tetrahedron.

Scouting America resources: Making Fire With Flint and Steel (video) · How To Start a Fire With Flint and Steel (video) How To Start a Campfire in the Rain? (video)

Date _____ I used (flint and steel or ferro rod) _____

How I made sparks and caught one to create a flame

Fire tetrahedron principle I used to put it out _____

(d) Demonstrate the safe way to start a charcoal fire.

Scouting America resources: Charcoal Safety (website) · How To Light a Barbecue (video) · **ScoutSmarts:** Requirement 8d explained

Date _____ Where _____

Safety steps I followed

(e) Describe three common campsite fire lays. Collect, prepare, and set up tinder, kindling, and fuel for a campfire following the Leave No Trace Seven Principles and the Outdoor Code. Ignite your fire lay and safely extinguish your fire.

Scouting America resources: How To Build a Fire (video) · Minimize Campfire Impacts (video)
3 Campfire Lays—Through the Eyes of a Thermal Camera (video)

Three common campsite fire lays

Fire lay	How it's built

Date _____ Where _____

- ☐ Collected and prepared tinder
- ☐ Collected and prepared kindling
- ☐ Collected and prepared fuel
- ☐ Set up my fire lay
- ☐ Ignited my fire lay
- ☐ Safely extinguished my fire

How I followed the Leave No Trace Seven Principles and the Outdoor Code

(f) Demonstrate using a camp stove.

Scouting America resources: How To Use Your Coleman Classic Propane Gas Camping Stove (video) · **ScoutSmarts:** Requirement 8f explained

Date _____ Type of stove _____

(g) Explain how to set up and keep a campsite safe from fire.

Scouting America resources: Campfire Safety | How To Make a Fire While Camping | How To Put Out a Campfire Safely (video)
ScoutSmarts: Requirement 8g explained

How to set up and keep a campsite safe from fire

(h) Develop a lesson plan to teach a fire safety skill or topic, such as lighting a candle or a match or a charcoal fire or a lantern or a camp stove or using flint and steel or setting up a fire lay. Review your lesson plan with your counselor. Teach your skill or topic to one or more Scouts using the EDGE method.

Scouting America resources: The Teaching EDGE: The Best Way To Teach Someone a New Skill (website)

Skill or topic I taught _____ Who I taught _____ Date _____

My lesson plan

Step	What I will do
Explain	
Demonstrate	
Guide	
Enable	

☐ Reviewed my lesson plan with my counselor

Requirement 8 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

9. Wildland Fires. Do the following:

ScoutSmarts: Requirement 9 explained

(a) List causes of wildland fires and ways to prevent them.

Scouting America resources: Wildfires 101 (video)

Causes of wildland fires

Cause	How to prevent it

(b) Explain the social, economic, and environmental consequences of wildland fires.

Scouting America resources: How Are Wildfires Making Us Sick (video) · How Wildfires Affect Water Supply (video) A Better Way To Think Abut Wildland Fires (video)

Consequences of wildland fires

Consequence	My notes
Social	
Economic	
Environmental	

Requirement 9 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

10. Careers. Do ONE of the following:

☐ **(a)** Visit a fire station in-person. Identify the various types of fire service vehicles. From the firefighters you meet during your visit, learn about the fire prevention activities in your community and about their careers. Discuss with your counselor what you learned during your tour and interviews.

Scouting America resources: Fire Station Tour for Kids (video) · Memphis Fire Department Virtual Field Trip (video)
ScoutSmarts: Requirement 10a explained

Fire station _____ Date _____

Fire service vehicles I saw

Vehicle	What it is used for

Fire prevention activities in my community

What I learned about the firefighters' careers

☐ **(b)** Identify three career opportunities that would use skills and knowledge in the field of fire safety. 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: How To Become a Firefighter (video) · Wildland Firefighting and Wildland Fire Ecology Jobs (video)

Three careers in fire safety

Career	Skills and knowledge it uses

The one I picked _____

Topic	What I found
Training	
Education	
Certification requirements	
Experience	
Expenses	

Requirement 10b (continued)

Topic	What I found
Prospects for employment	
Starting salary	
Advancement opportunities	
Career goals	

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

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: Fire Safety merit badge page (requirements and resources) · Fire Safety merit badge pamphlet (free PDF) All merit badges · **ScoutSmarts:** Fire Safety Merit Badge Guide, Part 1 · Fire Safety 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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