

Gardening

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 19, 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) Explain to your counselor the most likely hazards associated with gardening and what you should do to anticipate, help prevent, mitigate, and respond to these hazards.

Scouting America resources: Garden Safety Tips (video)

Gardening hazards

Hazard	How I anticipate and help prevent it	How I mitigate and respond

(b) Discuss the prevention of and treatment for health concerns that could occur while gardening, including cuts, scratches, puncture wounds, insect bites, anaphylactic shock, heat reactions, and reactions from exposure to pesticides and fertilizers.

Scouting America resources: Pesticide Safety (video)

Health concerns while gardening

Health concern	Prevention	Treatment
Cuts		
Scratches		
Puncture wounds		
Insect bites		
Anaphylactic shock		
Heat reactions		
Reactions from exposure to pesticides and fertilizers		

Requirement 1 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

2. Do the following, and discuss your observations throughout the process with your counselor:

(a) Grow six vegetables, three from seeds and three from seedlings, through harvest.

Scouting America resources: How To Start Seeds at Home (video) · How To Grow Cucumbers (video) How To Grow Asparagus (video)

My six vegetables

Started from	Vegetable	Date planted	Date harvested	What I observed
Seed				
Seed				
Seed				
Seedling				
Seedling				
Seedling				

Observations to discuss with my counselor

(b) Grow six flowers, three from seeds and three from seedlings, through flowering.

Scouting America resources: How To Plant Flowers (video) · How To Plant & Grow Sunflowers (video)

My six flowers

Started from	Flower	Date planted	Date flowered	What I observed
Seed				
Seed				
Seed				
Seedling				
Seedling				
Seedling				

Observations to discuss with my counselor

Requirement 2 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

3. Give the nutritional value of the following:

(a) Three root or tuber crops

Scouting America resources: Taro (video) · Sweet Potatoes (video) · Potatoes (video)

Root or tuber crop	Its nutritional value

(b) Three vegetables that bear above the ground

Scouting America resources: Lettuce (video) · Tomato Health Benefits! (video) · Cucumbers (video)

Vegetable that bears above the ground	Its nutritional value

(c) Three fruits

Scouting America resources: Are Green Grapes Good for You? See 6 Reasons (video) · Apples (video) · Oranges (video)

Fruit	Its nutritional value

Requirement 3 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

4. Test 100 seeds for germination. Determine the percentage of seeds that germinate. Explain why you think some did not germinate.

Scouting America resources: Seed Germination Test (video)

Kind of seed _____ Date started _____ Seeds tested _____

How I set up my test

Germination check-ins

Date	Seeds sprouted so far	Notes

Seeds that germinated | Germination percentage

Why I think some did not germinate

Requirement 4 completed on | counselor initials

5. Visit your county extension office, local university, agricultural college, nursery, farm, botanical garden, or arboretum. Report on what you learned.

Scouting America resources: Eyes on Agriculture (video)

Place I visited | Date

My report: what I learned

Requirement 5 completed on | counselor initials

6. Explain to your counselor how and why honeybees are used in pollinating food crops and the problems that face the bee population today. Discuss what the impact to humanity would be if there were no pollinators.

Scouting America resources: All About Bees (video) · Why Bees Are Important (video)

How and why honeybees are used in pollinating food crops

Problems that face the bee population today

The impact on humanity if there were no pollinators

Requirement 6 completed on | counselor initials

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7. Identify five garden pests (insects, diseased plants). Recommend two solutions for each pest. At least one of the two solutions must be an organic method.

Scouting America resources: Be a Bug Detective (video) · Good Bugs vs Bad Bugs: What's in Your Garden? (video)

Five garden pests

Pest (insect or diseased plant)	Organic solution	Other solution

Requirement 7 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

8. Do ONE of the following and record weekly observations. Discuss the results of your project with your counselor.

My weekly observations

Week	Date	What I did	What I observed
Week 1			
Week 2			
Week 3			
Week 4			
Week 5			
Week 6			
Week 7			
Week 8			
Week 9			
Week 10			
Week 11			
Week 12			
Week 13			

Results of my project to discuss with my counselor

☐ **(a)** Build a compost bin and maintain it for 90 days.

Scouting America resources: Build a Compost Bin That Turns Yard Waste Into Soil (video)

Date built _____ Where my compost bin is _____

☐ **(b)** Build a vermicompost bin (worm compost bin) and maintain it for 90 days.
Scouting America resources: How to Build a Worm Composter: A Simple DIY Vermicomposting Project (video)
Date built | Where my worm bin is

☐ **(c)** Build a hydroponic garden containing three vegetables or herbs, or three ornamental plants. Maintain this garden through harvest or flowering, or for 90 days.
Scouting America resources: How To Grow an Indoor Hydroponic Garden (video) · Hydroponics At Home (video)
Date built | Plant 1 | Plant 2 | Plant 3

☐ **(d)** Build one water garden, either in a container (at least 12 by 6 inches and 6 inches deep), or in the ground as a small, decorative pond no larger than 6 by 3 feet and 24 inches deep. Maintain the water garden for 90 days.
Scouting America resources: How to Create a Water Garden in a Pot (video)
Date built | Container or in the ground | Size

☐ **(e)** Prepare a honey super for use on a hive or colony. Remove a filled honey super from the hive or colony and prepare the honey for sale.
Scouting America resources: Adding a Second Super (video) · Honey Harvesting: Honey out of the Hive (website)
Date super prepared | Date filled super removed

Whose hive or colony, and where

How I prepared the honey for sale

☐ **(f)** Grow a garden of your own using soil from seed or plantings to harvest or for 90 days, whichever is earlier. This can be an outdoor garden or indoors using appropriate containers, and should include at least three types of plants approved by your counselor.
Scouting America resources: The Secret to a Garden That Produces All Summer Long (video)
How To Get Started Growing Organic Garden (video) · How To Have a Weed-Free Garden (video)
Date planted | Outdoors, or indoors in containers

Approved plant 1 | Approved plant 2 | Approved plant 3

Requirement 8 completed on | counselor initials

9. Do ONE of the following:

☐ **(a)** Identify three career opportunities that would use skills and knowledge in gardening. 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: Gardener - Career Spotlight (video) · Grounds Maintenance Workers (website w/ video)

Three careers that use gardening

Career	Gardening skills and knowledge it uses

The career I picked

Training, education, certification requirements, experience, and expenses

Prospects for employment, starting salary, advancement opportunities, and career goals

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

☐ **(b)** Identify how you might use the skills and knowledge in gardening to pursue a personal hobby and/or healthy lifestyle. Research the additional training required, expenses, and affiliation with organizations that would help you maximize the enjoyment and benefit you might gain from it. Discuss what you learned with your counselor and share what short-term and long-term goals you might have if you pursued this.

Scouting America resources: Benefits of Gardening as a Hobby and Why You Should Be a Gardener (video)

My hobby or healthy lifestyle idea

How I would use gardening skills and knowledge in it

Additional training, expenses, and organizations that would help

My short-term and long-term goals

Requirement 9 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: Gardening merit badge page (requirements and resources) · Gardening merit badge pamphlet (free PDF)
All merit badges

Made by Cole at ScoutSmarts.com, an Eagle Scout who loves helping Scouts.
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