

Graphic Arts

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 December 31, 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. Review with your counselor the processes for producing printed communications: offset lithography, screen printing, electronic/digital, relief, and gravure. Collect samples of three products, each one produced using a different printing process, or draw diagrams to help you with your description.

Scouting America resources: Intro to Printmaking (video) · Learning About Printmaking (video)

Processes for producing printed communications

Process	How it works (notes from my review)
Offset lithography	
Screen printing	
Electronic/digital	
Relief	
Gravure	

My three samples (or diagrams)

Sample or diagram	Printing process used

Requirement 1 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

2. Explain the differences between continuous tone, line, and halftone artwork. Describe how digital images can be created and/or stored in a computer.

Scouting America resources: Line Art, Continuous Tone and Halftone (website) · Halftone Printing Explained for Screen Printers (video) What Is a Digital Image? (video)

Kinds of artwork

Kind	What it is and how it differs
Continuous tone	
Line	
Halftone	

How digital images can be created and/or stored in a computer

Requirement 2 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

3. Design a printed piece (flyer, T-shirt, program, form, etc.). Explain your decisions for the typeface or typefaces you use and the way you arrange the elements in your design. Explain which printing process is best suited for printing your design. If desktop publishing is available, identify what hardware and software would be appropriate for outputting your design.

Scouting America resources: The Basics of Graphic Design (video) · Best Graphic Designing Software (video)

What I designed (flyer, T-shirt, program, form...) _____ Date _____

My design: sketch here or attach

The typeface or typefaces I used, and why

How I arranged the elements, and why

The printing process best suited to my design, and why

Hardware and software for outputting my design (if desktop publishing is available)

Requirement 3 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

4. Produce the design you created for requirement 3 using one of the following printing processes:

Scouting America resources: Prepress Tips—How To Set Up Your Digital Print Files Correctly (video)

☐ **(a)** Offset lithography. Make a layout, and produce a plate using a process approved by your counselor. Run the plate and print at least 50 copies.

Scouting America resources: Offset Lithography Demonstration (video)

- ☐ Made a layout
- ☐ Produced a plate (process approved by my counselor)
- ☐ Ran the plate
- ☐ Printed at least 50 copies

Date _____ Where _____ Copies printed _____

☐ **(b)** Screen printing. Make a hand-cut or photographic stencil and attach it to a screen that you have prepared. Mask the screen and print at least 20 copies.

Scouting America resources: Screen Printing Tutorial (video)

- ☐ Made a hand-cut or photographic stencil
- ☐ Prepared a screen
- ☐ Attached the stencil to the screen
- ☐ Masked the screen
- ☐ Printed at least 20 copies

Date _____ Where _____ Copies printed _____

☐ **(c)** Electronic/digital printing. Create a layout in electronic form, download it to the press or printer, and run 50 copies. If no electronic interface to the press or printer is available, you may print and scan a paper copy of the layout.

Scouting America resources: What Is Digital Printing? (video)

- ☐ Created a layout in electronic form
- ☐ Downloaded it to the press or printer (or printed and scanned a paper copy)
- ☐ Ran 50 copies

Date _____ Where _____ Copies printed _____

☐ **(d)** Relief printing. Create a layout in electronic form, download it to the press or printer, and run 50 copies. If no electronic interface to the press or printer is available, you may print and scan a paper copy of the layout.

Scouting America resources: Relief Printmaking (video)

Date _____ Where _____ Copies printed _____

What I did

Requirement 4 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

5. Postpress Operations. Do the following:

Scouting America resources: Book Binding Options: What Type of Book Binding Should I Use? (website)
Book Binding Types: Wire Coil, Saddle Stitching, Burst, Perfect Binding etc (video)

(a) Discuss the finishing operations of padding, drilling, cutting, and trimming with your counselor.

Scouting America resources: Finishing in Printing (website)

Finishing operations

Operation	What it is (notes from our discussion)
Padding	
Drilling	
Cutting	
Trimming	

(b) Collect, describe, or identify examples of the following types of binding: perfect, spiral, plastic comb, saddle stitch, and case.

Types of binding

Binding	My example (collected, described, or identified)
Perfect	
Spiral	
Plastic comb	
Saddle stitch	
Case	

Requirement 5 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

6. Do ONE of the following, and then describe the highlights of your visit:

☐ **(a)** Visit a newspaper printing plant. Follow a story from the editor to the press.

Scouting America resources: How The New York Times Is Made (video)
Free State Journalism—How the Paper is Made (website w/ video)

Newspaper printing plant _____ Date _____

How the story went from the editor to the press, and the highlights of my visit

☐ **(b)** Visit a retail, commercial, or in-plant printing facility. Follow a project from beginning to end.

Scouting America resources: Traditional Bookbinding | How It's Made (video) · Flexographic Printing Basics (video)

Printing facility _____ Date _____

The project from beginning to end, and the highlights of my visit

☐ **(c)** Visit a school's graphic arts program. Find out what courses are available and what the prerequisites are.

Scouting America resources: Study Graphic Arts | Winchester School of Art (video)
Top 50 Graphic Design Schools and Colleges in the U.S (website)

School _____ Date _____

Graphic arts courses

Course	Prerequisites

Highlights of my visit

☐ **(d)** With your parent or guardian's permission, visit three websites that belong to graphic arts professional organizations and/or printing-related companies (suppliers, manufacturers, printers). Print out or download product or service information from two of the sites.

Scouting America resources: GCEA - Graphic Communicators Education Association (website) · Book Arts Associations (website)

Parent or guardian permission _____ Date _____

Three websites I visited

Website	Organization or company	Printed or downloaded info? (two sites)

Highlights of my visit

Requirement 6 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

7. Find out about three career opportunities in graphic arts. Pick one and find out the education, training, and experience required for this profession. Discuss this with your counselor, and explain why this profession might interest you.

Scouting America resources: Desktop Publishing as a Career (video) · Printing Press Operators (video)
Graphic Design and Printing Career Guide (website)

Three careers in graphic arts

Career	What the work involves

The one I picked: education, training, and experience required

Why this profession might interest me

Requirement 7 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: Graphic Arts merit badge page (requirements and resources) · Graphic Arts 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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