

Horsemanship

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. Do the following:

(a) Describe the safety precautions you should take when handling and caring for a horse.
Scouting America resources: Safety Precautions When Handling Horses (video)

Safety precautions when handling and caring for a horse

(b) Describe the fire safety precautions you should take in a barn and around horses.
Scouting America resources: Barn Fire Safety (video)

Fire safety precautions in a barn and around horses

Requirement 1 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

2. Name 15 parts of a horse and discuss the function of each with your counselor.

Scouting America resources: Parts of a Horse (video) · Parts of a Horse (blank) (PDF) · Parts of a Horse (filled) (PDF)

Fifteen parts of a horse

Part of the horse	Its function

Requirement 2 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

3. Name four breeds of horses. Explain the special features for which each breed is known.

Scouting America resources: Ten Popular Horse Breeds (video) · Six Popular Horse Breeds (video)

Four breeds of horses

Breed	Special features it is known for

Requirement 3 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

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4. Describe the symptoms of colic. Name and describe four other horse health problems.

Scouting America resources: Health Problems in Horses (video)

Symptoms of colic

Four other horse health problems

Health problem	What it is and its signs

Requirement 4 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

5. Explain what conformation is and why it is important. Explain the difference between lameness and unsoundness.

Scouting America resources: Lameness vs. Unsoundness (video) · Signs of Lameness (video)

What conformation is, and why it is important

The difference between lameness and unsoundness

Requirement 5 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

6. Explain the importance of hoof care and why a horse might need to wear shoes.

Scouting America resources: How To Clean Horse Hooves (video)

Why hoof care is important

Why a horse might need to wear shoes

Requirement 6 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

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7. Demonstrate how to groom a horse, including picking hooves and caring for a horse after a ride.

Scouting America resources: Caring for a Horse (video) · How To Groom a Horse (video)

Date _____ Horse I groomed _____ Shown to _____

- ☐ Groomed the horse
- ☐ Picked the hooves
- ☐ Cared for the horse after a ride

Requirement 7 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

8. Explain how to determine what and how much to feed a horse and why the amount and kind of feed are changed according to the activity level and the breed of horse.

Scouting America resources: What Do Horses Eat? (video)

How to determine what and how much to feed a horse

Why feed changes with...	My explanation
Activity level	
Breed of horse	

Requirement 8 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

9. Do the following:

(a) Name 10 parts of the saddle and bridle that you will use, and explain how to care for this equipment.

Scouting America resources: Parts of a Saddle (video)

Ten parts of the saddle and bridle I will use

Part	Saddle or bridle

Ten parts of the saddle and bridle I will use (continued)

Part	Saddle or bridle

How to care for this equipment

(b) Show how to properly saddle and bridle a horse.

Scouting America resources: How To Saddle a Horse (video) · How To Bridle a Horse (video)

Date _____ Horse _____ Shown to _____

☐ Saddled the horse
☐ Bridled the horse

(c) Demonstrate how to safely mount and dismount a horse.

Scouting America resources: Using a Mounting Block and Adjusting Tack (video) · Mounting and Dismounting a Horse (video) How To Mount a Horse (video) · How To Ride a Horse (video)

Date _____ Where _____ Shown to _____

☐ Mounted safely
☐ Dismounted safely

Requirement 9 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

10. Explain and demonstrate how to approach and lead a horse safely from a stall, corral, or field and how to tie the horse securely.

Scouting America resources: How To Lead a Horse (video)

How to approach and lead a horse safely, and how to tie it securely

Date I demonstrated _____ Stall, corral, or field _____ Shown to _____

Requirement 10 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

11. On level ground, continuously do the following movements after safely mounting the horse. Do them correctly, at ease, and in harmony with the horse.

Scouting America resources: How To Steer Your Horse (video) · How To Ride a Horse (video) Riding Despite Physical Challenges (video)

Date _____ Where _____ Horse I rode _____

Counselor who watched _____

(a) Walk the horse in a straight line for 60 feet.

(b) Walk the horse in a half-circle of not more than 16 feet in radius.

(c) Trot or jog the horse in a straight line for 60 feet.
Scouting America resources: How To Trot a Horse (video)

(d) Trot or jog the horse in a half-circle of not more than 30 feet in radius.
Scouting America resources: Tips for Trotting (video)

(e) Halt straight.
Scouting America resources: How To Stop Your Horse (video)

(f) Back up straight four paces.
Scouting America resources: How To Back Up a Horse (video)

(g) Halt and dismount.
Scouting America resources: Mount and Dismount a Horse (video)

Requirement 11 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

12. Do ONE of the following:

☐ **(a)** Explore careers related to this merit badge. Research one career to learn about the training and education needed, costs, job prospects, salary, job duties, and career advancement. Your research methods may include—with your parent or guardian's permission—an internet or library search, an interview with a professional in the field, or a visit to a location where people in this career work. Discuss with your counselor both your findings and what about this profession might make it an interesting career.
Scouting America resources: Careers Working With Horses (video) · Explore a Career as a Horse Doctor (video)

Careers related to horsemanship

Career	What people in it do

The career I researched _____

What I researched

Topic	What I found
Training and education needed	
Costs	
Job prospects	
Salary	
Job duties	
Career advancement	

How I researched it

What might make it an interesting career

☐ **(b)** Explore how you could use knowledge and skills from this merit badge to pursue a hobby or healthy lifestyle. Research any training needed, expenses, and organizations that promote or support it. Discuss with your counselor what short-term and long-term goals you might have if you pursued this.

Scouting America resources: United States Pony Club (video) · Competitive Hobbyhorse Riding (video)

My hobby or healthy lifestyle idea

What I researched

Topic	What I found
Training needed	
Expenses	
Organizations that promote or support it	

My short-term goals

My long-term goals

Requirement 12 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: Horsemanship merit badge page (requirements and resources)
Horsemanship merit badge pamphlet (free PDF) · All merit badges

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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