

American Indian Culture

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 April 29, 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. Identify the different American Indian cultural areas. Explain what makes them each unique.

Scouting America resources: Native American Cultural Regions (video) · **ScoutSmarts:** Requirement 1 explained

American Indian cultural areas

Cultural area (and where it is)	What makes it unique

Requirement 1 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

2. Research an American Indian tribe, group, or nation. Tell your counselor about traditional dwellings, way of life, tribal government, religious beliefs, family and clan relationships, language, clothing styles, arts and crafts, food cultivation, foraging and preparation, means of getting around, games, customs in warfare, and where and how they live today.

ScoutSmarts: Requirement 2 explained

Tribe, group, or nation I researched _____ My sources _____

What I learned about them

Topic	What I learned
traditional dwellings	
way of life	
tribal government	
religious beliefs	
family and clan relationships	
language	
clothing styles	
arts and crafts	
food cultivation, foraging and preparation	
means of getting around	
games	
customs in warfare	
where and how they live today	

More notes for my counselor

Requirement 2 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

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3. Do the following:

(a) Learn 10 common terms in an American Indian language and their meanings.

Language

Ten terms I learned

Term	Meaning

(b) Identify the meaning of 10 place names of American Indian origin in the United States.

Scouting America resources: 75 U.S. Place Names Inspired by Native American Culture (website)

Ten place names of American Indian origin

Place name	Where it is	Meaning

Ten place names of American Indian origin (continued)

Place name	Where it is	Meaning

(c) Name five well-known American Indian leaders, either from the past or people of today. Give their tribes or nations. Describe what they did or do now that makes them notable.

Scouting America resources: 10 Legendary Chiefs: Courageous Heroes of Native America (video)

Five well-known American Indian leaders

Leader	Tribe or nation	What they did or do that makes them notable

Requirement 3 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

4. Do the following:

(a) Describe how life might have been different for the European settlers if there had been no Native Americans to meet them when they came to this continent.

How life might have been different for the European settlers

(b) Describe eight things adopted by others from American Indians.

Scouting America resources: Contributions of Native Americans—Indigenous Achievements That Shaped Today (video)

ScoutSmarts: Requirement 4b explained

Eight things adopted by others from American Indians

Thing adopted	My description

Eight things adopted by others from American Indians (continued)

Thing adopted	My description

(c) Learn a game played by a group or tribe. Teach and lead it with a Scout group.

Scouting America resources: Cherokee Traditional Games: Stickball (video) · Cherokee Traditional Games: The Game of Graces (video)

ScoutSmarts: Requirement 4c explained

Game _____ Group or tribe that plays it _____

Scout group I led _____ Date _____

How to play (the rules I taught)

Requirement 4 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

5. Do ONE of the following:

☐ **(a)** Visit a museum either in-person or virtually to see American Indian exhibitions and collections. Discuss with your counselor what you observed or learned from two exhibitions and identify 10 artifacts by tribe or nation, their shape, size, and use.

Scouting America resources: Museums (Choose option Ethnically/Culturally/Tribally Specific) (website)

ScoutSmarts: Requirement 5a explained

Museum (in person or virtual) _____ Date _____

Two exhibitions

Exhibition	What I observed or learned

Ten artifacts

Artifact	Tribe or nation	Shape	Size	Use

Ten artifacts (continued)

Artifact	Tribe or nation	Shape	Size	Use

☐ **(b)** Attend a contemporary American Indian gathering. Discuss with your counselor proper etiquette for attending as well as what you learned and observed during your visit.

Scouting America resources: Pow Wow Calendar (website)
Celebration of Powwow | The Living History of Native American Gatherings (video)
Destination Native America—Upcoming Events (website)

Gathering _____ Where _____ Date _____

Proper etiquette for attending

What I learned and observed during my visit

Requirement 5 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: American Indian Culture merit badge page (requirements and resources)
American Indian Culture merit badge pamphlet (free PDF) · All merit badges · **ScoutSmarts:** American Indian Culture Merit Badge Guide, Part 1 · American Indian Culture 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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