

Law

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 October 7, 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.
This workbook is unofficial and not endorsed by Scouting America.

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1. Define law. Tell some of its sources. Describe the functions it serves.

Scouting America resources: Sources of Law (website)

My definition of law

Some sources of law

The functions law serves

Requirement 1 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

2. Discuss TWO of the following:

☐ **(a)** Justinian's Code, the Code of Hammurabi, and the Magna Carta

Scouting America resources: Code of Justinian (website) · Code of Justinian (video) · Code of Hammurabi (website) Code of Hammurabi (video) · Magna Carta (video)

Three historic legal documents

Document	What I will discuss about it
Justinian's Code	
Code of Hammurabi	
Magna Carta	

☐ **(b)** The development of the jury system

Scouting America resources: Origins of Modern Jury System (website)

How the jury system developed

☐ **(c)** Two famous trials in history

Scouting America resources: Famous Trials That Shaped Legal History (video)

Two famous trials

Trial	What happened, and why it is famous

Requirement 2 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

3. Tell what civil law is; tell what criminal law is. Tell the main differences between them. Give examples of each.

Scouting America resources: Differences Between Criminal Court and Civil Court (website)
What Is the Difference Between Civil Cases and Criminal Cases? (video)

Civil law and criminal law

Type of law	What it is	Examples
Civil law		
Criminal law		

The main differences between them

Requirement 3 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

4. Ask five people (not more than one from your immediate family) about the role of law enforcement officers in our society. Discuss their answers with them. Report your findings to your counselor.

Five people I asked about the role of law enforcement officers

Person (first name)	Family member?	What they said

My findings to report to my counselor

Requirement 4 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

5. Discuss with your counselor several laws that were passed to protect the consumer and the seller. Describe several organizations that provide help to consumers and sellers.

Scouting America resources: Consumer Protection Law Explained (video)

Laws that protect consumers and sellers

Law	Protects the consumer, the seller, or both	What it does

Organizations that help consumers and sellers

Organization	Who it helps	How it helps

Requirement 5 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

6. Do ONE of the following:

☐ **(a)** Attend a session of a civil or criminal court. Write 250 words or more on what you saw.

Court I attended _____ Civil or criminal _____ Date _____

What I saw (250 words or more; attach another sheet if needed)

☐ **(b)** Plan and conduct a mock trial with your troop, school class, or other group. After the trial is over, discuss it with the group.

Scouting America resources: Law Merit Badge Mock Trial (video) · How Does a Mock Trial Work? (video)

Group _____ Date _____ Case we tried _____

My plan for the mock trial (roles, case, steps)

What we discussed with the group afterward

Requirement 6 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

7. Arrange a visit with a lawyer who works for a business, bank, title company, or government agency. Find out his or her duties and responsibilities. Report what you have learned.

Lawyer I visited _____ Works for _____ Date _____

Their duties and responsibilities: what I learned

Requirement 7 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

8. Explain the requirements for becoming a lawyer in your state. Describe how judges are selected in your state.

Scouting America resources: How To Become a Lawyer (video)

My state _____

Requirements for becoming a lawyer in my state

How judges are selected in my state

Requirement 8 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

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9. Make a list of 15 jobs that deal with some aspects of law or legal processes. Tell which you prefer. Why?

Scouting America resources: List of Legal Careers (website)

15 jobs that deal with law or legal processes

Job	How it deals with law or legal processes

The one I prefer, and why

Requirement 9 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

10. Tell where people can go to obtain the help of a lawyer if they are unable to pay for one. Tell what you can do if you can afford a lawyer but do not know of any in your area.

Scouting America resources: Legal Help Program If You Cannot Afford an Attorney (website) · How To Find An Attorney (website) How Do I Find a Lawyer (video)

Where people can get a lawyer's help if they cannot pay

What I can do if I can afford a lawyer but do not know any in my area

Requirement 10 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

11. Discuss with your counselor the importance in our society of TWO of the following areas of the law or process:

☐ **(a)** Administrative

Scouting America resources: Understanding Administrative Law (website)
Who Regulates Daily Life? | Administrative Law Explained (video)

Its importance in our society

☐ **(b)** Alternative Dispute Resolution

Scouting America resources: Alternative Dispute Resolution (website)
Alternative Dispute Resolution - An Explanation & Overview (video)

Its importance in our society

☐ **(c)** Bankruptcy

Scouting America resources: Bankruptcy Basics (website) · Bankruptcy Basic (video)

Its importance in our society

☐ **(d)** Biotechnology

Scouting America resources: What Is Biotechnology Law? (website) · Biotech Regulation (video)

Its importance in our society

☐ **(e)** Environmental

Scouting America resources: Environmental Law: A Short Introduction (video)

Its importance in our society

☐ **(f)** Family

Scouting America resources: Family Law (website) · Family Law Explained (video)

Its importance in our society

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☐ **(g)** Immigration

Scouting America resources: Immigration Law (website) · Immigration Law Explained (video)

Its importance in our society

☐ **(h)** Information Technology

Scouting America resources: Information Technology Law (website) · Cyber Law Explained (video)

Its importance in our society

☐ **(i)** Intellectual Property (Copyright, Patents, and Trademarks)

Scouting America resources: Intellectual Property Law (website) · Intellectual Property Law Explained (video)

Its importance in our society

☐ **(j)** International

Scouting America resources: International Law (website) · What Is International Law (video)

Its importance in our society

☐ **(k)** Privacy

Scouting America resources: Tech Law & Privacy Law (website) · Understanding the Basics of US Privacy Laws (video)

Its importance in our society

Requirement 11 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: Law merit badge page (requirements and resources) · Law 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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