

Leatherwork

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.

---

1. Do the following:

Scouting America resources: Be Prepared (video)

(a) Explain to your counselor the hazards you are most likely to encounter while using leatherwork tools and materials, and what you should do to anticipate, help prevent, mitigate, or lessen these hazards.

Scouting America resources: Safety in Leatherwork | Dangers and Health and Safety Tips (video)

Leatherwork hazards

Hazard (tool or material)	How I anticipate and help prevent it	How I mitigate or lessen it

(b) Show that you know first aid for injuries or illnesses that could occur while working with leather, including minor cuts and scratches, puncture wounds, ingested poisoning, and reactions from exposure to chemicals such as dyes, cements, and finishes used in leatherworking.

Scouting America resources: First Aid (PDF) · First Aid for Minor Cuts (website) · First Aid for Puncture Wounds (website)

First aid for leatherwork injuries and illnesses

Injury or illness	First aid I would give
minor cuts and scratches	
puncture wounds	
ingested poisoning	
reactions from exposure to chemicals such as dyes, cements, and finishes	

Requirement 1 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

2. Explain the following:

(a) Where leather comes from

Scouting America resources: How is Leather Made? (video)

Where leather comes from

(b) Kinds of hides that are used to make leather

Scouting America resources: Picking the Best Part of the Leather Hide (video) · Useful Leather Crafting Charts (website)

Kinds of hides used to make leather

Kind of hide	What I learned about it

(c) Five types of leather

Scouting America resources: Leather Is Made From Which Animal (video)

Five types of leather

Type of leather	What I learned about it

(d) Best uses for each type of leather

Scouting America resources: What Leather Should I Use for Tooling? (video) · Choosing the Correct Leather for your Project (video)

Best uses for each type

Type of leather	Best uses

Requirement 2 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

3. Make one or more articles of leather that use at least five of the following steps:

Article or articles I made _____ Date finished _____

☐ **(a)** Pattern layout and transfer

Scouting America resources: Transferring Patterns (video) · "Tap offs" or Mirrored Image Transfers (video)

Which article _____ What I did and the tools I used _____

☐ **(b)** Cutting leather

Scouting America resources: Best Practices for Cutting Leather (video)

Which article _____ What I did and the tools I used _____

☐ **(c)** Punching holes

Scouting America resources: How to Use a Rotary Hole Punch (video) · How to Punch Holes (video)

Which article _____ What I did and the tools I used _____

☐ **(d)** Carving or stamping surface designs

Scouting America resources: Basic Leather Carving (video) · How to Stamp Leather (video)

Which article _____ What I did and the tools I used _____

Requirements © Scouting America, reproduced verbatim. Unofficial workbook; not endorsed by Scouting America.

☐ **(e)** Applying dye or stain and finish to the project

Scouting America resources: Basics of Hand Dyeing Leather (video)

Which article | What I did and the tools I used

☐ **(f)** Assembly by lacing or stitching

Scouting America resources: How to Punch Holes (for Sewing) in Leather (video)
How to Choose the Right Thread and Needle Size for Hand-Sewing in Leather (video)
The Most Common Stitches in Hand-Stitching for Leatherwork (video) · How to Start and End Hand-Swing Lines in Leather (video)

Which article | What I did and the tools I used

☐ **(g)** Setting snaps and rivets

Scouting America resources: How to Set Snaps (video) · How to Remove a Snap (video) · How to Set Rivets (video)

Which article | What I did and the tools I used

☐ **(h)** Dressing edges

Scouting America resources: Edge Finishing Techniques (video)

Which article | What I did and the tools I used

Requirement 3 completed on | counselor initials

4. Braid or plait an article out of leather, vinyl lace, or paracord.

Scouting America resources: Four Strand Round Braid (video) · Plaiting: How to Braid Any Number of Cords (video)

What I braided or plaited | Material used | Date

The braid I used and how I made it

Requirement 4 completed on | counselor initials

5. Do ONE of the following:

☐ **(a)** Learn about the commercial tanning process. Report about it to your counselor.

Scouting America resources: How is Leather Made? (video)

Where I learned about it | Date reported

Notes for my report on the commercial tanning process

☐ **(b)** Tan the skin of a small animal. Describe the safety precautions you will take and the tanning method that you used.

Scouting America resources: How to Tan Animal Hides (Never Destroy Animals for This Purpose) (video)

Skin I tanned | Date started | Date finished

Safety precautions I will take

Requirements © Scouting America, reproduced verbatim. Unofficial workbook; not endorsed by Scouting America.

The tanning method I used

☐ **(c)** Recondition or show that you can take proper care of your shoes, a baseball glove, a saddle, furniture, or other articles of leather. Discuss with your counselor the advantages or disadvantages of leather vs. synthetic materials.

Scouting America resources: How to Clean & Shine Leather Shoes! (video) · How to Care for Your Baseball Glove (video) How to Clean a Western Saddle (video) · How to Remove Mold and Mildew on Leather (video)

Article I reconditioned or cared for _____ Date _____

What I did to care for it

Leather vs. synthetic materials

Material	Advantages	Disadvantages
Leather		
Synthetic materials		

☐ **(d)** Visit a leather-related business. This could be a leathercraft supply company, a tannery, a leather goods or shoe factory, or a saddle shop. Report on your visit to your counselor.

Scouting America resources: A Random Walk Through Horween Leather (video)

Business I visited _____ Kind of business _____ Date _____

Notes for my report on the 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: Leatherwork merit badge page (requirements and resources) · Leatherwork 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.
Requirement text © Scouting America. Workbook layout © 2026 ScoutSmarts.com, free to copy for Scouting use.