

Moviemaking

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. Discuss and demonstrate the proper elements of a good motion picture. In your discussion, include visual storytelling, rhythm, the 180-axis rule, camera movement, framing and composition of camera shots, and lens selection.

Scouting America resources: Film Making Basics (video)

Elements of a good motion picture

Element	What it means, in my own words	How I demonstrated it
Visual storytelling		
Rhythm		
The 180-axis rule		
Camera movement		
Framing and composition of camera shots		
Lens selection		

More notes for my discussion

Requirement 1 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

2. Do the following:

(a) In a three- or four-paragraph treatment, tell the story you plan to produce, making sure that the treatment conveys a visual picture.

Scouting America resources: Film Production Explained, Each Step of the Production Process (video)

Working title of my story

My treatment (three or four paragraphs that paint a visual picture)

(b) Prepare a storyboard for your motion picture. Note: This can be done with rough sketches and stick figures.

Scouting America resources: What Is a Storyboard and Why Is It Important? Pre-Production Filmmaking (video)

My storyboard (draw here or attach)

(c) Demonstrate the following motion picture shooting techniques:

(1) Using a tripod

Scouting America resources: 7 Tripod Tricks for Filmaking (video)

Date | What I filmed to show it

(2) Panning a camera

Scouting America resources: Camera Panning (video)

Date | What I filmed to show it

(3) Framing a shot

Scouting America resources: Reverse Shot (video) · Frame It Right Essential Framing (video)

Date _____ What I filmed to show it _____

(4) Selecting an angle

Scouting America resources: Filmmaking 101: 5 Camera Angles (video) · 12 CAMERA ANGLES to Enhance Your Films (video)

Date _____ What I filmed to show it _____

(5) Selecting proper lighting

Scouting America resources: Ultimate Guide to Cinematic Lighting (video)
Zack Snyder Justice League Martian Man Hunter Meets Lois (video)

Date _____ What I filmed to show it _____

(6) Handheld shooting

Scouting America resources: 5 Tips for Shooting Handheld Videos (video) · Birdman: Anatomy of a Scene (video)

Date _____ What I filmed to show it _____

(d) Using motion picture shooting techniques, plan ONE of the following programs. Start with a treatment and complete the requirement by presenting this program to a pack or your troop, patrol, or class.

My treatment for the program I picked

Presented to (pack, troop, patrol, or class) _____ Date _____

☐ **(1)** Film a court of honor and show it to an audience.

Scouting America resources: 4 Videography Tips for Beginners (video)

Court of honor I filmed _____ Length _____

☐ **(2)** Create a short feature of your own design, using the techniques you learned.

Scouting America resources: 10 Tips for Beginner Videographers (video)

Title of my feature _____ Length _____

☐ **(3)** Shoot a vignette that could be used to train a new Scout in a Scouting skill.

Scouting America resources: How to Make a Great Instructional Video (video)

Scouting skill it teaches _____ Length _____

Requirement 2 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

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3. Do ONE of the following:

☐ **(a)** With your parent or guardian's permission and your counselor's approval, visit a film set or television production studio and watch how production work is done.

Scouting America resources: Film Set Order of Operations (video)

Film set or studio _____ Date _____

What I saw about how production work is done

☐ **(b)** Explain to your counselor the elements of the zoom lens and three important parts.

Scouting America resources: How Lens Work in Camera (video) · The Parts of a Camera Lens - Anatomy of a DSLR Lens (video)

The elements of the zoom lens

Three important parts of the zoom lens

Part	What it does

Requirement 3 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

4. 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: Top 10 Careers in Film & Video Production (video)

Careers related to moviemaking

Career	What people in it do

The career I researched | How I researched it

What I found out about it

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

What might make it an interesting career for me

☐ **(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: Filmmaking as a Hobby - Getting Started (video)

My hobby or healthy lifestyle idea

What I found out

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

Goals	What I would aim for if I pursued this
Short-term goals	
Long-term goals	

Requirement 4 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: Moviemaking merit badge page (requirements and resources) · Moviemaking 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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