

Music

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 May 5, 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. Sing or play a simple song or hymn chosen by your counselor, using good technique, phrasing, tone, rhythm, and dynamics. Read all the signs and terms of the score.

Scouting America resources: How to Read Music (video) · Violin Demonstration (video)
Instrument Demonstration for Beginning Band (video)

Song or hymn my counselor chose _____ Voice or instrument _____ Date _____

Signs and terms in the score

Sign or term	What it tells me to do

Requirement 1 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

2. Name the five general groups of musical instruments. Create an illustration that shows how tones are generated and how instruments produce sound.

Scouting America resources: Classification of Musical Instruments (video) · Orchestral Instruments and How They Sound (video)

The five general groups of musical instruments

Group	Notes

My illustration: how tones are generated and how instruments produce sound (draw here or attach)

Requirement 2 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

3. Do TWO of the following:

☐ **(a)** Attend a live performance, or listen to three hours of recordings from any two of the following musical styles: blues, jazz, classical, country, bluegrass, ethnic, gospel, musical theater, opera. Describe the sound of the music and the instruments used. Identify the composers or songwriters, the performers, and the titles of the pieces you heard. If it was a live performance, describe the setting and the reaction of the audience. Discuss your thoughts about the music.

Live performance or three hours of recordings _____ Date or dates _____

What I heard

Musical style	Title of the piece	Composer or songwriter	Performer

The sound of the music and the instruments used

If it was live: the setting and the audience's reaction

My thoughts about the music

☐ **(b)** Interview an adult member of your family about music. Find out what the most popular music was when he or she was your age. Find out what his or her favorite music is now, and listen to three of your relative's favorite tunes with him or her. How do those favorites sound to you? Had you ever heard any of them? Play three of your favorite songs for your relative, and explain why you like these songs. Ask what he or she thinks of your favorite music.

Family member I interviewed _____ Date _____

Question	What they told me
Most popular music when they were my age	
Their favorite music now	

Three of their favorite tunes we listened to

Tune	Had I heard it before?	How it sounds to me

Three of my favorite songs I played for them

Song	Why I like it	What they think of it

☐ **(c)** Serve for six months as a member of a school band, choir, or other organized musical group, or perform as a soloist in public six times.

Band, choir, or group (or solo) _____ Started _____ Finished _____

My six months or six public performances

Month or performance	Date	What we practiced or where I performed
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		

☐ **(d)** List five people who are important in the history of American music and explain to your counselor why they continue to be influential. Include at least one composer, one performer, one innovator, and one person born more than 100 years ago.

- ☐ At least one composer
- ☐ At least one performer
- ☐ At least one innovator
- ☐ At least one person born more than 100 years ago

Five people important in the history of American music

Person	Composer, performer, or innovator	Year born	Why they continue to be influential

Requirement 3 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

4. Do ONE of the following:

☐ **(a)** Teach three songs to a group of people. Lead them in singing the songs, using proper hand motions.

Three songs I taught

Song	Group I taught	Date

☐ Led the group in singing
☐ Used proper hand motions

☐ **(b)** Compose and write the score for a piece of music of 12 measures or more, and play this music on an instrument.

Title of my piece _____ Number of measures _____ Instrument _____

My score: write it here or attach

Played for _____ Date _____

☐ **(c)** Make a traditional instrument and learn to play it.

Instrument I made _____ Date I finished it _____

Materials I used and how I made it

What I learned to play on it _____ Date _____

Requirement 4 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

5. Define for your counselor intellectual property (IP). Explain how to properly obtain and share recorded music.

Scouting America resources: What Are Intellectual Property Rights? (video)

Intellectual property (IP) in my own words

How to properly obtain and share recorded music

Requirement 5 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

6. 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 in the Music Industry (video)

Careers I explored

Career	What the job involves

Career I researched | How I researched it

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

What might make it an interesting career

☐ **(b)** Explore how you could use knowledge and skills from this merit badge to pursue a hobby. 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: Music Hobbies (video)

Hobby

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

Goals	If I pursued this
Short-term	
Long-term	

Requirement 6 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: Music merit badge page (requirements and resources) · Music 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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