

Painting

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.
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. Explain the proper safety procedures to follow when preparing surfaces and applying coatings.

Scouting America resources: Best Safety Equipment for Painting (video) · PPE for Interior Painting (video)
ScoutSmarts: Requirement 1 explained

Safety procedures

When	Safety procedures to follow
Preparing surfaces	
Applying coatings	

Requirement 1 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

2. Do the following:

(a) Explain three ways that coatings can improve a surface.

Scouting America resources: Epoxy Resin Coatings (video) · **ScoutSmarts:** Requirement 2a explained

Three ways coatings can improve a surface

Way	How it improves the surface

(b) Explain the differences between oil-based paints, acrylic-based paints, and water-based paints.

Scouting America resources: Paints - Oil, Water, Enamel, Acrylic (video) · Water vs Oil Based Paints (video)

How these paints differ

Paint	What makes it different
Oil-based paints	
Acrylic-based paints	
Water-based paints	

(c) Explain where you would apply enamel paint, flat paint, wood stain, and varnish, and explain the importance of sheen.

Scouting America resources: Paint Sheen Differences Explained (video) · **ScoutSmarts:** Requirement 2c explained

Where I would apply each

Coating	Where I would apply it
Enamel paint	
Flat paint	
Wood stain	
Varnish	

The importance of sheen

(d) Tell why each is best for these uses.

ScoutSmarts: Requirement 2d explained

Why each is best for these uses

Coating	Why it is best for these uses
Enamel paint	
Flat paint	
Wood stain	
Varnish	

Requirement 2 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

3. Prepare and paint two different surfaces using patching materials or caulking and the proper primers and topcoats. Suggested projects include an interior or exterior wall, a door, a piece of furniture, a concrete wall or floor, a porch rail, or a fence. Your counselor must preapprove the projects.

Scouting America resources: How To Paint an Exterior Metal Door (video) · **ScoutSmarts:** Requirement 3 explained

My two painting projects

Surface	Patching or caulking used	Primer	Topcoat	Date done

- ☐ Counselor preapproved project 1
- ☐ Counselor preapproved project 2

How I prepared and painted each surface

Requirement 3 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

4. Prepare and paint an item using harmonizing colors that you have selected using the color wheel in the Painting merit badge pamphlet.

Scouting America resources: Decorating With a Color Scheme (video) · Color Wheel from Painting Merit Badge Pamphlet (PDF)
ScoutSmarts: Requirement 4 explained

Item I painted _____ Date _____

My harmonizing colors

Color	Where I used it on the item

How I chose these colors using the color wheel

Requirement 4 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

5. Show the right way to use, clean, maintain, and store painting equipment.

Scouting America resources: How To Clean Paint Brushes (video) · How To Use a Paint Sprayer (video)
ScoutSmarts: Requirement 5 explained

Date _____ Shown to _____

What I showed

Step	Equipment and what I showed
Use	
Clean	
Maintain	
Store	

Requirement 5 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

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6. Explain the importance of ladder safety, personal hygiene, and the use of personal protective equipment when painting.

Scouting America resources: Ladder Safety Tips (website) · **ScoutSmarts:** Requirement 6 explained

Why each matters when painting

Topic	Why it is important
Ladder safety	
Personal hygiene	
Personal protective equipment	

Requirement 6 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

7. Explain some of the environmental and health issues concerning removing paint, applying paint, and discarding old paint.

Scouting America resources: How to Dispose of Old Paint (video) · Paint Removers (video) · **ScoutSmarts:** Requirement 7 explained

Environmental and health issues

Task	Environmental issues	Health issues
Removing paint		
Applying paint		
Discarding old paint		

Requirement 7 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

8. Do ONE of the following:

ScoutSmarts: Requirement 8 explained

☐ **(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: Painters Career Overview (video) · Scenic Painter (video) · Painters (website w/ video)

The career I picked _____

What I researched

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

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How I researched it

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: Easy Wall Painting DIY I Balcony makeover I Yoga wall art (video)

My hobby or healthy lifestyle idea

What I researched

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

My short-term goals

My long-term goals

Requirement 8 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: Painting merit badge page (requirements and resources) · Painting merit badge pamphlet (free PDF)
All merit badges · **ScoutSmarts:** Painting Merit Badge Guide, Part 1 · Painting 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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