

Pulp and Paper

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.

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1. Tell the history of papermaking. Describe the part paper products play in our society and economy.

Scouting America resources: The History of Paper From Ancient China to Modern Times (video)

The history of papermaking

The part paper products play in our society and economy

Requirement 1 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

2. Learn about the pulp and paper industry.

(a) Describe the ways the industry plants, grows, and harvests trees.

Scouting America resources: How They Grow Trees for Paper Manufacture (video)

How the industry plants, grows, and harvests trees

(b) Explain how the industry manages its forests so that the supply of trees keeps pace with the demand.
Scouting America resources: Forest Management (video)

How the industry manages its forests so the supply keeps pace with demand

(c) Tell how the industry has incorporated the concepts of sustainable forest management (SFM).
Scouting America resources: Sustainable Forestry (video)

How the industry uses sustainable forest management (SFM)

(d) Describe two ways the papermaking industry has addressed pollution.
Scouting America resources: Green Spotlight on the Paper Industry (video)

Two ways the industry has addressed pollution

Way	How it works

Requirement 2 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

3. Name at least four types of trees that are major sources of papermaking fibers. Then do the following:
Scouting America resources: What Kind of Tree Does Paper Come From (video)

Trees that are major sources of papermaking fibers

Type of tree	Notes

(a) Discuss what other uses are made of the trees and the forestland owned by the pulp and paper industry.
Scouting America resources: Purposes and Techniques of Forest Management (website)

Other uses of the industry's trees and forestland

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(b) Describe two ways of getting fibers from wood, and explain the major differences between them.

Scouting America resources: From Tree to Paper (video)

Two ways of getting fibers from wood

Method	How it works

The major differences between them

(c) Tell why some pulps are bleached, and describe the process.

Scouting America resources: Bleaching (video)

Why some pulps are bleached

The bleaching process

Requirement 3 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

4. Describe how paper is made. Discuss how paper is recycled. Make a sheet of paper by hand.

Scouting America resources: Production of Paper (video)
From Tree to Sheet: How Paper Is Made | Unveiling the Manufacturing Process (video)
How to Make Handmade Paper from Recycled Materials (video)

How paper is made

How paper is recycled

Date I made my sheet _____ What I used _____

How my handmade sheet turned out

Requirement 4 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

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5. Explain what coated paper is and why it is coated. Describe the major uses for different kinds of coated papers. Describe one other way that paper is changed by chemical or mechanical means to make new uses possible.

Scouting America resources: Coated vs. Uncoated Paper (video)

What coated paper is, and why it is coated

Kinds of coated paper

Kind of coated paper	Its major uses

One other way paper is changed by chemical or mechanical means, and the new uses it makes possible

Requirement 5 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

6. Make a list of 15 pulp or paper products found in your home. Share examples of 10 such products with your counselor.

Fifteen pulp or paper products in my home

#	Product	Where I found it	Shared with counselor
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			

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Products in my home, continued

#	Product	Where I found it	Shared with counselor
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			

Requirement 6 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

7. With your parent or guardian's and counselor's approval, do ONE of the following:

☐ **(a)** Visit a pulp mill. Describe how the mill converts wood to cellulose fibers.

Scouting America resources: How Is Paper Made Today? (website)

Pulp mill I visited _____ Date _____

How the mill converts wood to cellulose fibers

☐ **(b)** Visit a paper mill and get a sample of the paper made there. Describe the processes used for making this paper. Tell how it will be used.

Paper mill I visited _____ Date _____

Paper sample I got _____

The processes used to make this paper

How it will be used

☐ **(c)** Visit a container plant or box plant. Describe how the plant's products are made.

Scouting America resources: Corrugated Box Companies Listings (website)

Container or box plant I visited _____ Date _____

How the plant's products are made

☐ **(d)** Visit a recycled paper collection or sorting facility. Describe the operations there.

Scouting America resources: Discover How Paper is Sorted for Recycling! (video) · How Is Paper Recycled? (video)
Recycling Centers in the US (website)

Recycling facility I visited _____ Date _____

The operations there

☐ **(e)** Using books, magazines, your local library, the internet (with your parent or guardian's permission), and any other suitable research tool, find out how paper products are developed. Find out what role research and development play in the papermaking industry. Share what you learned with your counselor.

Scouting America resources: Revolutionizing the Paper Industry (video)
Top 10 Pulp and Paper Trends & Innovations in 2025 (website)

Sources I used

Source (book, magazine, website...)	What I found

How paper products are developed

The role research and development play in papermaking

Requirement 7 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

8. Find out about three career opportunities in the papermaking industry that interest you. Pick one and find out the education, training, and experience required for this profession. Discuss this with your counselor, and explain why this profession might interest you.

Scouting America resources: Why a Career in Pulp and Paper Pays Off (video) · Career Opportunities at Catalyst Paper (video)
Amazing Summer Internships for Students at Pulp and Paper (video) · Working for International Paper (video)
Jobs in the Paper Industry (website)

Three papermaking careers that interest me

Career	What the job involves

The one I picked

Education, training, and experience required

Why this profession might interest me

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: Pulp and Paper merit badge page (requirements and resources)
Pulp and Paper 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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