

Reading

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. Do the following:

(a) Take a tour of a library. Discuss with your counselor how the library is organized and what resources and/or services are offered in the library.

Scouting America resources: How Is a Library Organized (video) · Library of Congress Classification (video)

Library I toured _____ Date _____

How the library is organized

Resources and services it offers

(b) Learn how to search for material using a library's card catalog or computerized catalog by author, title, and subject.

Scouting America resources: How to Use a Card Catalog (video)

My practice searches

Search by	What I searched for	What I found
author		
title		
subject		

(c) In a library, search the card catalog or computerized catalog for six books of four different types, such as poetry, fiction, nonfiction, and biographies.

Scouting America resources: Locating a Book in a Library (video)

Six books I found in the catalog

#	Title and author	Type of book	Call number or location	Found it on the shelf?
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				

(d) With the assistance of your counselor or the librarian, see if you can locate on the shelves the six books you selected.

Date _____ Who helped me _____

(e) Explain what a library card is, why it is needed, and how to get one.

Scouting America resources: How Do I...Get a Library Card (video)

About a library card	My notes
What it is	
Why it is needed	
How to get one	

Requirement 1 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

2. Do the following:

(a) Identify a book you have enjoyed. Find out what other books the author has written.

A book I enjoyed _____ Author _____

Other books this author has written

(b) Look at one or more "best books" lists. These can be based on year, subject, or even all time. Identify at least one book you would like to read.

Scouting America resources: Best Selling Books Ever (video) · 10 Most Read Books of All Time (video)

Best books lists I looked at

List and where I found it	Based on (year, subject, all time...)

A book I would like to read

Requirement 2 completed on counselor initials

3. Read four different types of books, such as poetry, fiction, nonfiction, or biographies. Do one of the following for each book you have read:

Scouting America resources: Every Book Genre Explained (video) · Literary Genres: Nonfiction (video)
How to Get Into Poetry as a Beginner (video)

My four books

#	Type of book	Title and author	What I did (a, b, or c)	Date
1				
2				
3				
4				

☐ **(a)** Write a review of the book. Include what you liked and/or didn't like about the book. Include whether you would recommend this book, and if so, who might enjoy reading it.

Scouting America resources: How to Write a Book Review (video) · How to Write a Book Review (12 Steps) (video)

My reviews (attach another page if you review more than one book)

☐ **(b)** Watch a movie based on the book. What was the same between the book and movie? What was different? Which did you enjoy more? Discuss this with your counselor.

Scouting America resources: 7 Big Differences (video)

Book Movie

What was the same

What was different

Which I enjoyed more

☐ **(c)** Give a book talk to your class, troop, or patrol.

Scouting America resources: How to Do a Book Talk (video)

My book talks

Book	Who I talked to (class, troop, or patrol)	Date

Notes for my book talk

Requirement 3 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

4. Read a nonfiction book or magazine that teaches you how to do something like cooking, wood-building projects, video game design, science experiments, knot-tying, etc. With your counselor's and parent or guardian's permission, complete a project from the book. Share your experience with your counselor. Reading a merit badge pamphlet will not count toward completing this requirement.

Scouting America resources: How to Improve Reading Comprehension (video)

Book or magazine _____ My project _____

☐ Counselor's permission
☐ Parent or guardian's permission
☐ Project completed

How my project went (to share with my counselor)

Requirement 4 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

5. Read about the world around you from any two sources: books, magazines, newspapers, the internet (with your parent or guardian's permission), field manuals, etc. Topics may include Scouting, sports, environmental problems, politics, social issues, current events, nature, religion, etc. Discuss what you have learned with your counselor.

Scouting America resources: Summarizing Main Ideas (video) · Youth Read Sacred Texts (video)

My two sources

#	Source (book, magazine, website...)	Topic	What I learned
1			
2			

Points to discuss with my counselor

Requirement 5 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

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6. With your counselor's and parent or guardian's permission, choose ONE of the following activities and devote at least four hours of service to that activity. Discuss your participation with your counselor.

- ☐ Counselor's permission
- ☐ Parent or guardian's permission

My service log (at least four hours)

Date	What I did	Hours

How my service went (to discuss with my counselor)

☐ **(a)** Read to a sick, blind, or homebound person in a hospital or in an extended-care facility.
Scouting America resources: Tips on Reading Out Loud (video)
Hospital or facility _____ What I read _____

☐ **(b)** Perform volunteer work at your school library or a public library.
Scouting America resources: Teen Volunteer Opportunities (video)
Library _____ My volunteer tasks _____

☐ **(c)** Read stories to younger children, in a group or individually.
Scouting America resources: Top Tips for Reading to Children (video)
Where, and who I read to _____ Stories I read _____

☐ **(d)** Organize a book swap in your troop, school, or place of worship.
Scouting America resources: Host a Book Swap Party (video)
Where I held the book swap _____ Date _____

☐ **(e)** Organize a book drive to collect books. Donate them to an organization in need.
Scouting America resources: Brag Book (video)
Books collected _____ Organization I donated them to _____

Requirement 6 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

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7. Identify three career opportunities that would use skills and knowledge in reading. Pick one and research the training, education, certification requirements, experience, and expenses associated with entering the field. Research the prospects for employment, starting salary, advancement opportunities and career goals associated with this career. Discuss what you learned with your counselor and whether you might be interested in this career.

Three careers that use reading

Career	How it uses reading

The career I picked

What I found out about it

Topic	What I found
Training	
Education	
Certification requirements	
Experience	
Expenses	
Prospects for employment	
Starting salary	
Advancement opportunities	
Career goals	

Whether I might be interested in this career, and why

Requirement 7 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: Reading merit badge page (requirements and resources) · Reading 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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