

Scouting Heritage

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 with your counselor the life and times of Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell. Explain why he felt a program like Scouting would be good for the young men of his day. Include in your discussion how Scouting was introduced in the United States, and the origins of Boy Scouting and Cub Scouting under Baden-Powell.

Scouting America resources: Baden Powell - Father of Scouting, Origins of Scouting (video)

The life and times of Baden-Powell

Why he felt a program like Scouting would be good for youth of his day

How Scouting was introduced in the United States

The origins of Boy Scouting and Cub Scouting under Baden-Powell

Requirement 1 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

2. Do the following:

(a) Give a short biographical summary of any TWO of the following, and tell of their roles in how Scouting developed and grew in the United States.

☐ **(1)** Daniel Carter Beard

Scouting America resources: Daniel Carter Beard - BSA Founder (video)

- ☐ **(2)** William D. Boyce
- ☐ **(3)** Waite Phillips
  Scouting America resources: Waite Phillips - BSA Benefactor and Donor of Philmont (video)
- ☐ **(4)** Ernest Thompson Seton
  Scouting America resources: Ernest Thompson Seton - BSA Founder (video)
- ☐ **(5)** James E. West
  Scouting America resources: James E. West - BSA Founder (video)
- ☐ **(6)** "Green Bar Bill" Hillcourt
  Scouting America resources: Green Bar Bill Hillcourt Biography (video)
- ☐ **(7)** Frederick Russell Burnham
  Scouting America resources: Frederick Russell Burnham and B–P's Campaign Hat (video)
- ☐ **(8)** Dr. Charles Eastman
  Scouting America resources: Dr. Charles Eastman (video)
- ☐ **(9)** Edgar Robinson
  Scouting America resources: Edgar Robinson (video)

First person I picked (name) and a short biography

Their role in how Scouting developed and grew in the United States

Second person I picked (name) and a short biography

Their role in how Scouting developed and grew in the United States

(b) Discuss the significance to Scouting of any TWO of the following:

- ☐ **(1)** Brownsea Island
  Scouting America resources: Artifact of the Week - Brownsea Island (video)
- ☐ **(2)** The First World Scout Jamboree
  Scouting America resources: Artifact of the Week - World Scout Jamborees Part 01 (video)
  Artifact of the Week - World Scout Jamborees Part 02 (video)
- ☐ **(3)** Scouts BSA Handbook
  Scouting America resources: NSM History of the Scout Handbook (video) · Artifact of the Week - First Scout Handbook (video)
- ☐ **(4)** Scout Life magazine (formerly Boys' Life)
  Scouting America resources: Artifact of the Week—Boys' Life to Scout Life (video) · The Story of Boys' Life/Scout Life (video)

First one I picked, and its significance to Scouting

Second one I picked, and its significance to Scouting

Requirement 2 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

3. Discuss with your counselor how Scouting's programs have developed over time and been adapted to fit different age groups and interests (Cub Scouting, Scouts BSA, Exploring, Venturing).

Scouting America resources: Scouting History Timeline (video) · Artifact of the Week—Development of Cub Scouting (video) Artifact of the Week—Sea Scouts (video) · About Exploring (website) · History of Venturing (website)

How Scouting's programs have developed

Program	Age group and interests it fits	How it has developed over time
Cub Scouting		
Scouts BSA		
Exploring		
Venturing		

Requirement 3 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

4. Do ONE of the following:

☐ **(a)** Attend either a Scouting America National Jamboree, OR World Scout Jamboree, OR a national Scouting America high-adventure base. While there, keep a journal documenting your day-to-day experiences. Upon your return, report to your counselor what you did, saw, and learned. You may include photos, brochures, and other documents in your report.

Scouting America resources: 100 Years of the World Scout Jamboree (video) · Scouting America High Adventure Overview (video)

Jamboree or high-adventure base _____ Dates _____

☐ Kept a journal of my day-to-day experiences

☐ Reported to my counselor

My day-to-day journal

Day	What I did	What I saw and learned

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☐ **(b)** Write or visit the National Scouting Museum. Obtain information about this facility. Give a short report on what you think the role of this museum is in the Scouting program.

Scouting America resources: National Scouting Museum at Summit Bechtel Reserve Virtual Tour (video)
National Scouting Museum at Philmont Virtual Tour (website)

Wrote or visited _____ Date _____

Information I obtained about the museum

My short report: what I think the role of this museum is in the Scouting program

☐ **(c)** Visit an exhibit of Scouting memorabilia or a local museum with a Scouting history gallery, or (with your parent or guardian's permission and counselor's approval) visit with someone in your council who is recognized as a dedicated Scouting historian or memorabilia collector. Learn what you can about the history of Scouting America. Give a short report to your counselor on what you saw and learned.

Scouting America resources: Interactive Scouting Museum Map (website)

Exhibit, museum, or historian I visited _____ Date _____

My short report: what I saw and learned about the history of Scouting America

Requirement 4 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

5. Research the history of your unit, council, summer camp, or Order of the Arrow lodge. With the permission of a parent or guardian, your research methods may include an internet or library search, interviews with Scout leaders, or visits to locations where you learn about your topic. Prepare an oral or written report, a presentation, or a video of your research and review it with your counselor.

My topic (unit, council, summer camp, or lodge) _____ Type of report _____

My research

Source (search, interview, or visit)	What I learned

Outline of my report

Reviewed with my counselor (date) _____

Requirement 5 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

6. Make a collection of some of your personal patches and other Scouting memorabilia. With their permission, you may include items borrowed from family members or friends who have been in Scouting in the past, or you may include photographs of these items. Show this collection to your counselor, and share what you have learned about items in the collection. Note: There is no requirement regarding how large or small this collection must be.

Scouting America resources: Scouting Memorabilia Collection - Philmont License Plates (video) · Philmont Recognition Patches (video)

My Scouting collection

Item	Whose it is (mine, borrowed, or a photo)	What I learned about it

Shown to my counselor (date) _____

Requirement 6 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

7. Reproduce the equipment for an old-time Scouting game such as those played at Brownsea Island. You may find one on your own (with your counselor's approval) or pick one from the Scouting Heritage merit badge pamphlet. Teach and play the game with other Scouts.

Scouting America resources: Troop Games - Large Area (website) · Troop Games - Small Space (website) Troop Games - Pre-Meeting (website)

Old-time game _____ Where I found it _____

The equipment I reproduced, and how I made it

How the game is played (my notes for teaching it)

Date we played _____ Scouts I taught _____

Requirement 7 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

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8. Interview at least three people (different from those you interviewed for requirement 5) over the age of 40 who were Scouts. Find out about their Scouting experiences. Ask about the impact that Scouting has had on their lives. Share what you learned with your counselor.

Person 1: name _____ Date interviewed _____

Their Scouting experiences, and the impact Scouting has had on their life

Person 2: name _____ Date interviewed _____

Their Scouting experiences, and the impact Scouting has had on their life

Person 3: name _____ Date interviewed _____

Their Scouting experiences, and the impact Scouting has had on their life

What I learned to share with my counselor

Requirement 8 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

9. Careers. Do ONE of the following:

☐ **(a)** Explore careers related to Scouting. Research one career to learn about the training and education needed, costs, job prospects, salary, job duties, and career advancement. With permission of your parent or guardian, your research methods may include 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: Become a Professional Scouter (website)

Career I researched _____ How I researched it _____

What I found

Topic	My findings
Training and education needed	
Costs	
Job prospects	
Salary	
Job duties	
Career advancement	

What might make this an interesting career for me

☐ **(b)** Explore how you could use knowledge and skills from this merit badge to serve as a Scouting volunteer. Research any training needed, expenses, and how you could serve as a unit, district, council, regional, or national volunteer. Discuss with your counselor what short-term and long-term goals you might have if you pursued this.

Scouting America resources: Why Do You Volunteer? (video)

Serving as a Scouting volunteer

Topic	What I found
Training needed	
Expenses	
How I could serve (unit, district, council, regional, or national)	

My goals if I pursued this

Goals	What they are
Short-term goals	
Long-term goals	

Requirement 9 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: Scouting Heritage merit badge page (requirements and resources)
Scouting Heritage 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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