

Theater

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. See or read three full-length plays. Write a review of each. Discuss with your counselor the plot or story. If you chose to watch the plays, comment on the acting and the staging. Note: Watching plays on television, video, or as a movie is not permitted.

Scouting America resources: Theatre Merit Badge (video)

My three full-length plays

Play	Saw or read it	Where	Date
Play 1:			
Play 2:			
Play 3:			

My review of play 1 (plot or story; acting and staging if I watched it)

My review of play 2 (plot or story; acting and staging if I watched it)

My review of play 3 (plot or story; acting and staging if I watched it)

Requirement 1 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

2. Write a one-act play that will take at least 10 minutes to perform. The play must have a main character, conflict, and a climax.

Scouting America resources: How to Write a One-Act Play (video)

Title of my one-act play _____ Running time _____

- ☐ A main character
- ☐ Conflict
- ☐ A climax
- ☐ Takes at least 10 minutes to perform

My plot outline (attach the full script)

Requirement 2 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

3. Discuss with your counselor the safety precautions that should be practiced when working in a theater to protect the cast and crew. Then do THREE of the following:

Scouting America resources: General Safety in the Theatre (video)

Safety precautions in a theater that protect the cast and crew

☐ **(a)** Act a major part in a full-length play; or act a part in three one-act plays.

Play	Full-length or one-act	My part	Date

☐ **(b)** Direct a play. Cast, rehearse, and stage it. The play must be at least 10 minutes long.

Play I directed _____ Length _____ Date _____

- ☐ Cast it
- ☐ Rehearsed it
- ☐ Staged it

☐ **(c)** Design the set for a play or a theatrical production. Make a model of it.

Play or production _____

My set design (draw here or attach)

☐ Model of my set made

☐ **(d)** Design the costumes for five characters in a theatrical production set in a historical time.

Production _____ Historical time _____

My costume designs (sketches on the back or attached)

Character	My costume design

☐ **(e)** Show skill in hair and makeup design. Make up yourself or a friend as a historical figure, a clown, an extraterrestrial, or a monster as directed.

Who I made up _____ As a _____ Date _____

My hair and makeup design (sketch here or attach)

☐ **(f)** With your counselor's approval, help with the building and painting of the scenery for a theatrical production.

Production _____ Date _____ Counselor approved _____

The scenery I helped build and paint

☐ **(g)** With your counselor's approval, design the lighting for a play; or help install, focus, color, program, and operate the lighting for a theatrical production.

Play or production _____ Date _____ Counselor approved _____

My lighting design, or the lighting work I helped with

☐ **(h)** With your counselor's approval, help install, focus, equalize, program, and operate the sound for a theatrical production.

Production _____ Date _____ Counselor approved _____

The sound work I helped with

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☐ **(i)** Serve as the stage manager for a theatrical production. Document all cues and stage setups in your calling script.

Production _____ Dates _____

☐ All cues documented in my calling script
☐ All stage setups documented in my calling script

☐ **(j)** Serve as musical director for a musical theater production.

Musical production _____ Dates _____

What I did as musical director

Requirement 3 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

4. Mime or pantomime any ONE of the following, chosen by your counselor.

Scouting America resources: What is Pantomime? (video)

Date I performed it _____

☐ **(a)** You have come into a large room. It is full of pictures, furniture, and other things of interest.
☐ **(b)** As you are getting on a bus, your books fall into a puddle. By the time you pick them up, the bus has driven off.
☐ **(c)** You have failed a school test. You are talking with your teacher, who does not buy your story.
☐ **(d)** You are at camp with a new Scout. You try to help them pass a cooking test. The Scout learns very slowly.
☐ **(e)** You are at a banquet. The meat is good. You don't like the vegetable. The dessert is ice cream.
☐ **(f)** You are a circus performer such as a juggler, high-wire artist, or lion tamer doing a routine.

Requirement 4 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

5. Explain the following: proscenium arch, central or arena staging, center stage, stage right, stage left, downstage, upstage, stage crew, flies, portal, cyclorama, stage brace, spotlight, floodlight, lighting control board, sound mixing desk, thrust staging, ground plans, and sightlines.

Scouting America resources: Stage Anatomy (video)

Theater terms

Term	What it means
proscenium arch	
central or arena staging	
center stage	
stage right	
stage left	
downstage	
upstage	
stage crew	
flies	
portal	

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Theater terms (continued)

Term	What it means
cyclorama	
stage brace	
spotlight	
floodlight	
lighting control board	
sound mixing desk	
thrust staging	
ground plans	
sightlines	

Requirement 5 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: Theater merit badge page (requirements and resources) · Theater merit badge pamphlet (free PDF)
All merit badges

Made by Cole at ScoutSmarts.com, an Eagle Scout who loves helping Scouts.
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