

Wood Carving

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. Do the following:

(a) Explain to your counselor the hazards you are most likely to encounter while wood carving, and what you should do to anticipate, help prevent, mitigate, or lessen these hazards.

Scouting America resources: Top 7 Safety Secrets I Wish I'd Known Before My First Cut! (video)

Wood carving hazards

Hazard	How I anticipate and help prevent it	How I mitigate or lessen it

(b) Show that you know first aid for injuries that could occur while wood carving, including minor cuts and scratches and splinters.

Scouting America resources: The Emergency First Aid Kit for Woodworkers Need! (video)

First aid for wood carving injuries

Injury	First aid I would give
minor cuts and scratches	
splinters	

Other injuries that could occur while wood carving, and their first aid

Requirement 1 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

2. Do the following:

(a) Earn the Totin' Chip recognition.

Scouting America resources: Totin' Chip (website)

Date I earned my Totin' Chip _____ Signed by _____

(b) Discuss with your counselor your understanding of the Safety Checklist for Carving.

Scouting America resources: Safety Checklist for Carving (PDF)

My understanding of the Safety Checklist for Carving

Requirement 2 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

3. Do the following:

(a) Explain to your counselor, orally or in writing, the care and use of five types of tools that you may use in a carving project.

Scouting America resources: Basic Hand Carving Tools Explained (video)

Five carving tools

Tool	How to use it	How to care for it

(b) Tell your counselor how to care for and use several types of sharpening devices, then demonstrate that you know how to use these devices.

Scouting America resources: Essential Sharpening Tools Every Wood Carver Needs (video)
How To Use a Sharpening Stone | Knives (video) · Fast and Easy Knife Stropping Guide (video)

Sharpening devices

Sharpening device	How to use it	How to care for it

Date I demonstrated _____ Devices I used _____

Requirement 3 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

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4. Using a piece of scrap wood or a project on which you are working, show your counselor that you know how to do the following:

Scrap wood or project I used

(a) Paring cut

Scouting America resources: Pairing Cut Safety Whittling With a Knife (video)

Date shown | How it went

(b) Basic cut and push cut

Scouting America resources: Push Cut Tutorial | Beginner's Wood Carving Guide (video)

Date shown | How it went

(c) V cut

Scouting America resources: V-Shaped Cut Technique |Essential Carving Technique | Whittling Basics (video)

Date shown | How it went

(d) Stop cut or score line

Scouting America resources: How To Carve a Stop Cut | Woodcarving Fundamentals (video)
Incise Woodcarving || The Basics of How to Incise Wood Carve "Line Carving" (video)

Date shown | How it went

Requirement 4 completed on | counselor initials

5. Tell why different woods are used for different projects. Explain why you chose the type of wood you did for your projects in requirements 6 and 7.

Scouting America resources: Beginners Guide to Wood Carving - Lets Talk Wood (video) · My Top 5 Favorite Carving Woods (video)

Why different woods are used for different projects

The wood I chose for my projects

Project	Wood I chose	Why I chose it
Requirement 6: carving in the round		
Requirement 7: low-relief or chip carving		

Requirement 5 completed on | counselor initials

6. Plan your own or select a project from the Wood Carving merit badge pamphlet and complete a simple carving in the round.

Scouting America resources: Making Your Own Carving Patterns—Whittling Tips for Beginners (video) · 5-Minute Wizard (website)
How To Whittle a Simple Bear—Step-by-Step Beginner Wood Carving Project (video)
How To Carve a Arrowhead Neckerchief Slide Part 1 Carving Basics (video) · What Should You Whittle? Whittling Tips for Beginners (video)

My carving in the round | Date started | Date finished

- ☐ I planned my own project
- ☐ I chose a project from the merit badge pamphlet

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My plan: pattern, wood, tools, and steps

Sketch of my carving (draw here or attach)

Requirement 6 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

7. Complete a simple low-relief OR a chip carving project.

Scouting America resources: Beginning Woodcarving—How To Carve a Basic Flower With Mary May (video)
Chip Carving w/ Wayne Barton —Introduction (video) · Chip Carving: Tips for Beginners (video)

- ☐ Low-relief carving
- ☐ Chip carving

My project _____ Date started _____ Date finished _____

My plan: pattern, wood, tools, and steps

Sketch of my design (draw here or attach)

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: Wood Carving merit badge page (requirements and resources)
Wood Carving 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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