



# Reading

## Merit Badge Workbook

This workbook can help you but you still need to read the merit badge pamphlet.

The work space provided for each requirement should be used by the Scout to make notes for discussing the item with his counselor, not for providing the full and complete answers. Each Scout must do each requirement.

No one may add or subtract from the official requirements found in **Boy Scout Requirements** (Pub. 33216 – SKU 34765).

The requirements were last issued or revised in 2004 • This workbook was updated in April 2012.

Scout's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Counselor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Counselor's Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

<http://www.USScouts.Org> • <http://www.MeritBadge.Org>

Please submit errors, omissions, comments or suggestions about improving this workbook to: [Workbooks@USScouts.org](mailto:Workbooks@USScouts.org)

1. Do EACH of the following:

- a. Learn how to search your library's card catalog or computerized catalog by author, title, and subject.
- b. With the assistance of your merit badge counselor or a librarian, select six books of four different types (such as poetry, drama/plays, fiction, nonfiction, biographies, etc.). Ask your librarian or counselor about award-winning books that are recommended for readers your age and include at least one of those titles.
- c. Find the books in the library catalog. With your counselor's or a librarian's assistance, locate the books on the shelves.
- d. Read each book. Keep a log of your reading that includes the title of the book, the pages or chapters read, the date you completed them, and your thoughts about what you have read so far. Discuss your reading with your counselor. Using your log as a reference, explain why you chose each book and tell whether you enjoyed it and what it meant to you. *(There is a sample log at the end of this workbook.)*

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

Source: \_\_\_\_\_

Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

Discuss your reading: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Source: \_\_\_\_\_

Topic: \_\_\_\_\_

Discuss your reading: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Do ONE of the following:

- a. From a catalog of your choice, fill out an order form for merchandise as if you intended to place an order. Share the completed form with your counselor and discuss it.
- b. With your parent's permission, locate at least five Web sites that are helpful for your Scouting or other activities. Write the Internet addresses of these sites in your log. Talk with your counselor or a librarian about safety rules for using the Internet.

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4. With your counselor's and your parent'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.

- a. Read to a sick, blind, or homebound person in a hospital or in an extended-care facility.
- b. Perform volunteer work at your school library or a public library.
- c. Read stories to younger children, in a group or individually.

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**Requirement resources can be found here:**  
[http://www.meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Reading#Requirement\\_resources](http://www.meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Reading#Requirement_resources)

Book Title 1: \_\_\_\_\_ Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Award?

Why chosen? \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Pgs/Ch Read: \_\_\_\_\_ Thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Pgs/Ch Read: \_\_\_\_\_ Thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Pgs/Ch Read: \_\_\_\_\_ Thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Pgs/Ch Read: \_\_\_\_\_ Thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Pgs/Ch Read: \_\_\_\_\_ Thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Pgs/Ch Read: \_\_\_\_\_ Thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Pgs/Ch Read: \_\_\_\_\_ Thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_

Did you enjoy it? \_\_\_\_\_ What did it mean to you? \_\_\_\_\_

Book Title 2: \_\_\_\_\_ Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Award?

Why chosen? \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Pgs/Ch Read: \_\_\_\_\_ Thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Pgs/Ch Read: \_\_\_\_\_ Thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Pgs/Ch Read: \_\_\_\_\_ Thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Pgs/Ch Read: \_\_\_\_\_ Thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Pgs/Ch Read: \_\_\_\_\_ Thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Pgs/Ch Read: \_\_\_\_\_ Thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Pgs/Ch Read: \_\_\_\_\_ Thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_

Did you enjoy it? \_\_\_\_\_ What did it mean to you? \_\_\_\_\_

Book Title 3: \_\_\_\_\_ Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Award?

Why chosen? \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Pgs/Ch Read: \_\_\_\_\_ Thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Pgs/Ch Read: \_\_\_\_\_ Thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Pgs/Ch Read: \_\_\_\_\_ Thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Pgs/Ch Read: \_\_\_\_\_ Thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Pgs/Ch Read: \_\_\_\_\_ Thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Pgs/Ch Read: \_\_\_\_\_ Thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Pgs/Ch Read: \_\_\_\_\_ Thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_

Did you enjoy it? \_\_\_\_\_ What did it mean to you? \_\_\_\_\_

Book Title 4: \_\_\_\_\_ Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Award?

Why chosen? \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Pgs/Ch Read: \_\_\_\_\_ Thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Pgs/Ch Read: \_\_\_\_\_ Thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Pgs/Ch Read: \_\_\_\_\_ Thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Pgs/Ch Read: \_\_\_\_\_ Thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Pgs/Ch Read: \_\_\_\_\_ Thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Pgs/Ch Read: \_\_\_\_\_ Thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Pgs/Ch Read: \_\_\_\_\_ Thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_

Did you enjoy it? \_\_\_\_\_ What did it mean to you? \_\_\_\_\_

Book Title 5: \_\_\_\_\_ Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Award?

Why chosen? \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Pgs/Ch Read: \_\_\_\_\_ Thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Pgs/Ch Read: \_\_\_\_\_ Thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Pgs/Ch Read: \_\_\_\_\_ Thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Pgs/Ch Read: \_\_\_\_\_ Thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Pgs/Ch Read: \_\_\_\_\_ Thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Pgs/Ch Read: \_\_\_\_\_ Thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Pgs/Ch Read: \_\_\_\_\_ Thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_

Did you enjoy it? \_\_\_\_\_ What did it mean to you? \_\_\_\_\_

Book Title 6: \_\_\_\_\_ Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Award?

Why chosen? \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Pgs/Ch Read: \_\_\_\_\_ Thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Pgs/Ch Read: \_\_\_\_\_ Thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Pgs/Ch Read: \_\_\_\_\_ Thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Pgs/Ch Read: \_\_\_\_\_ Thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Pgs/Ch Read: \_\_\_\_\_ Thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Pgs/Ch Read: \_\_\_\_\_ Thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates: \_\_\_\_\_ Pgs/Ch Read: \_\_\_\_\_ Thoughts: \_\_\_\_\_

Did you enjoy it? \_\_\_\_\_ What did it mean to you? \_\_\_\_\_

## Important excerpts from the [‘Guide To Advancement’](#), No. 33088:

Effective January 1, 2012, the *‘Guide to Advancement’* (which replaced the publication *‘Advancement Committee Policies and Procedures’*) is now the *official* Boy Scouts of America source on advancement policies and procedures.

- **[ Inside front cover, and 5.0.1.4 ] — Unauthorized Changes to Advancement Program**  
***No council, committee, district, unit, or individual has the authority to add to, or subtract from, advancement requirements.***  
(There are limited exceptions relating only to youth members with disabilities. For details see section 10, “Advancement for Members With Special Needs”.)
- **[ Inside front cover, and 7.0.1.1 ] — The [‘Guide to Safe Scouting’](#) Applies**  
Policies and procedures outlined in the *‘Guide to Safe Scouting’*, No. 34416, apply to all BSA activities, including those related to advancement and Eagle Scout service projects. [Note: Always reference the online version, which is updated quarterly.]
- **[ 7.0.3.1 ] — The Buddy System and Certifying Completion**  
Youth members must not meet one-on-one with adults. Sessions with counselors must take place where others can view the interaction, or the Scout must have a buddy: a friend, parent, guardian, brother, sister, or other relative—or better yet, another Scout working on the same badge—along with him attending the session. When the Scout meets with the counselor, he should bring any required projects. If these cannot be transported, he should present evidence, such as photographs or adult certification. His unit leader, for example, might state that a satisfactory bridge or tower has been built for the Pioneering merit badge, or that meals were prepared for Cooking. If there are questions that requirements were met, a counselor may confirm with adults involved. Once satisfied, the counselor signs the blue card using the date upon which the Scout completed the requirements, or in the case of partials, initials the individual requirements passed.
- **[ 7.0.3.2 ] — Group Instruction**  
It is acceptable—and sometimes desirable—for merit badges to be taught in group settings. This often occurs at camp and merit badge midways or similar events. Interactive group discussions can support learning. The method can also be attractive to “guest experts” assisting registered and approved counselors. Slide shows, skits, demonstrations, panels, and various other techniques can also be employed, but as any teacher can attest, not everyone will learn all the material.

There must be attention to each individual's projects and his fulfillment of *all* requirements. We must know that every Scout — actually and *personally*— completed them. If, for example, a requirement uses words like “show,” “demonstrate,” or “discuss,” then every Scout must do that. It is unacceptable to award badges on the basis of sitting in classrooms *watching* demonstrations, or remaining silent during discussions. Because of the importance of individual attention in the merit badge plan, group instruction should be limited to those scenarios where the benefits are compelling.

- **[ 7.0.3.3 ] — Partial Completions**  
Scouts need not pass all requirements with one counselor. The Application for Merit Badge has a place to record what has been finished — a “partial.” In the center section on the reverse of the blue card, the counselor initials for each requirement passed. In the case of a partial completion, he or she does not retain the counselor's portion of the card. A subsequent counselor may choose not to accept partial work, but this should be rare. A Scout, if he believes he is being treated unfairly, may work with his Scoutmaster to find another counselor. An example for the use of a signed partial would be to take it to camp as proof of prerequisites. Partials have no expiration except the 18th birthday.