



# Ranger Award

## Core Requirements

### Venturing Award Checklist



This Checklist can help you document your progress as you work toward earning the award.  
The Venturer must do each requirement.

No one may add or subtract from the official requirements found in [Venturing Awards and Requirements](#)

The requirements were last revised in 2014 • This workbook was updated in November 2016.

Venturer's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please submit errors, omissions, comments or suggestions about this checklist to: [Workbooks@USScouts.Org](mailto:Workbooks@USScouts.Org)  
Comments or suggestions for changes to the requirements for the award should be sent to: [Advancement.Team@Scouting.Org](mailto:Advancement.Team@Scouting.Org)

1. **First Aid**

Complete a standard first aid course or the American Red Cross Wilderness First Aid Basics or equivalent course.

2. **Communications**

Do 2a, 2b, or 2c.

- a. Take a communications-related training class that includes at least 15 hours of training. This could be a non-required course at school such as creative writing, technical writing, American Sign Language, or film production. It could also be a commercial course such as speed-reading or effective presentations.
- b. Actively participate in a communications-related club or organization for at least three months. Participate in at least three activities of the organization where you practice or improve your communications skills. Examples include Toastmasters, debate clubs, or drama clubs.
- c. Read at least two books approved by your Advisor on a communications subject of interest to you. Write or give a report to your crew on the important communications principles you learned and how you think you can apply these principles to improve your communications.

AND

Do 2d, 2e, or 2f in connection with an outdoor skill or area you are interested in. Have your Advisor approve your plan before you begin.

- d. Make a formal, oral presentation of at least 30 minutes to your crew, another crew, a Cub Scout or Boy Scout unit, or another youth group. Include demonstrations, visual aids, or other techniques that will help you communicate more effectively.
- e. Prepare and present an audio/video presentation at least 15 minutes long to your crew or other group approved by your Advisor.
- f. Prepare a written pamphlet, set of instructions, or description and summary. It should be at least 1,000 words and provide a complete description of your chosen subject. Include pictures, charts, and/or diagrams to better communicate your topic. Have two people, one with expertise in the area you are presenting and one without expertise, read and critique your work. Make improvements to your draft based on their input. If your work is applicable to your crew, such as a work on caving skills, then share your work with your crew.

AND

Do 2g.

- g. Make a tabletop display or presentation for your crew, another crew, a Cub Scout or Boy Scout unit, or another youth group on communications equipment used in the outdoors with emphasis on how this equipment would help in a wilderness survival situation.

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3. **Cooking**

- a. Plan a menu and purchase the food for at least six people for a two night campout with at least three meals.
- b. On the campout in (a) above, cook the three meals using at least two of the following three methods of cooking: fire/coals, charcoal, stove.
- c. Demonstrate and explain proper safe food handling methods for outdoor cooking.
- d. Demonstrate that you can prepare backpacking-type trail food using a backpacking style stove.
- e. Without using any cooking utensils, prepare a meal with the four basic food groups for three people.
- f. Cook an entrée, a bread, and a dessert in a Dutch oven.

 4. **Emergency Preparedness**

- a. Discuss potential disasters and emergency preparedness with your family and then set up a family emergency plan.
- b. Build a family emergency kit.
- c. Make a tabletop display or presentation on what you have learned for your crew, another crew, a Cub Scout or Boy Scout unit, or another youth group.

 5. **Land Navigation**

- a. Using a topographical map for your area or the area you will be navigating in, demonstrate that you know the following map symbols:
 

<input type="checkbox"/> Index contour	<input type="checkbox"/> Depression
<input type="checkbox"/> Vertical control station	<input type="checkbox"/> Ridge
<input type="checkbox"/> Hard-surface, heavy-duty road	<input type="checkbox"/> Trail
<input type="checkbox"/> Railroad, single track	<input type="checkbox"/> Stream
<input type="checkbox"/> Power transmission line	<input type="checkbox"/> Hard-surface, medium-duty road
<input type="checkbox"/> Building	<input type="checkbox"/> Bridge
<input type="checkbox"/> Checked spot elevation	<input type="checkbox"/> Cemetery
<input type="checkbox"/> Marsh	<input type="checkbox"/> Campsite
<input type="checkbox"/> Map scale	<input type="checkbox"/> Water well or spring
<input type="checkbox"/> Intermittent stream	<input type="checkbox"/> Unimproved dirt road
- b. Explain contour lines. Be able to tell the contour interval for your map and be able to show the difference between a steep and a gentle slope.
- c. Using a map and compass, navigate an orienteering course that has at least six legs covering at least 2.5 miles.
- d. Learn to use a global positioning system (GPS) receiver. Demonstrate that you can find a fixed coordinate or geocache at night using a GPS receiver.
- e. Teach the navigating skills you have learned in (a) through (d) above to your crew, another crew, a Cub Scout or Boy Scout unit, or another group.

 6. **Leave No Trace**

- a. Recite and explain the principles of Leave No Trace.
- b. Participate in three separate camping/backpacking trips demonstrating that you know and use Leave No Trace principles.
- c. Make a tabletop display or presentation on the Leave No Trace principles and how they affect the environment and attitude of campers for your crew, another crew, a Cub Scout or Boy Scout unit, or another group; or teach a Leave No Trace Awareness course.

 7. **Wilderness Survival**

Before you complete Wilderness Survival, you must have completed the cooking, land navigation, and first aid requirements.

- a. Write a risk management plan for an upcoming crew high adventure activity such as a whitewater canoeing or rock-climbing trip. The plan should include nutrition, health, first aid, supervision, insurance, safety rules and regulations, proper equipment, maps and compass, in-service training, environmental considerations, emergency and evacuation procedures, and emergency contacts.

- b. From memory, list the survival priorities and explain your use of each in a survival situation.
- c. Learn about and then make a tabletop display or presentation for your crew, another crew, a Cub Scout or Boy Scout unit, or another youth group on the following subjects:
- i. Emergency signals used in the outdoors
  - iii. Search and rescue patterns
  - iii. Evacuation procedures and value of when to move and when not to move in a wilderness emergency
- d. Explain the following environmental exposure problems. Discuss what causes them, signs and symptoms, and treatment.
- i. Hypothermia
  - ii. Frostbite
  - iii. Sunburn
  - vi. Heat exhaustion
  - v. Heat cramps
  - i. Heatstroke
- e. Hydration.
- i. Explain dehydration and the necessity of conserving fluids in a survival situation.
  - ii. Explain at least four methods of obtaining water in the outdoors and demonstrate at least two ways to purify that water.
- f. Fire-making
- i. Demonstrate at least two different fire lays-one for cooking and one for warmth.
  - ii. Learn and discuss the use of fire starters, tinder, kindling, softwoods, and hardwoods in fire making.
- g. Explain and demonstrate how you can gain knowledge of weather patterns using VHF band radio and other radios, winds, barometric pressure, air masses and their movements, clouds, and other indicators.
- h. Knots and lashings
- i. Explain the different rope materials and thicknesses that are best for wilderness use and how to care for them.
  - ii. Know the use of and demonstrate how to tie the following knots and lashings:
 

<input type="checkbox"/> Sheet bend	<input type="checkbox"/> Clove hitch
<input type="checkbox"/> Fisherman's knot	<input type="checkbox"/> Timber hitch
<input type="checkbox"/> Bowline	<input type="checkbox"/> Taut-line hitch
<input type="checkbox"/> Bowline on a bight	<input type="checkbox"/> Square lashing
<input type="checkbox"/> Two half hitches	<input type="checkbox"/> Shear lashing
- i. Food.
- i. Explain the usefulness and drawbacks of obtaining food in the wilderness, including things to avoid.
  - ii. Prepare and eat at least one meal with food you have found in the outdoors.
- j. Survival kit.
- i. Make a list of items you would include in a wilderness survival kit and then make copies to hand out to visitors to your wilderness survival outpost camp.
  - ii. Using your list, make a wilderness survival kit. Explain the use of each item you have included.
- k. Outpost camp. (Remember to use the Leave No Trace principles you learned.)
- i. Set up a wilderness survival outpost camp and spend at least two nights and two days in your site.
  - ii. Use and demonstrate several knots and lashings from requirement (h) in your wilderness survival campsite demonstration.
  - iii. Know how to plan a wilderness shelter for three different environments and then build a shelter as part of your wilderness survival campsite demonstration.
  - iv. Have your crew, another crew, a Cub Scout or Boy Scout unit, or another youth group visit you in your outpost for a presentation you make on wilderness survival (at least one hour).

8. **Conservation**

- a. As a Venturer, plan, lead, and carry out a significant conservation project under the guidance of a natural resources professional.
  - b. Make a tabletop display or presentation on your conservation project for your crew, another crew, a Cub Scout or Boy Scout unit, or another youth group.
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**Important excerpts from the Guide To Advancement - 2015, No. 33088 (SKU-620573)****[1.0.0.0] — Introduction**

The current edition of the *Guide to Advancement* is the official source for administering advancement in all Boy Scouts of America programs: Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, Varsity Scouting, Venturing, and Sea Scouts. It replaces any previous BSA advancement manuals and previous editions of the *Guide to Advancement*.

**[Page 2, and 5.0.1.4] — Policy on 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 special needs. For details see section 10, "Advancement for Members With Special Needs".

**[Page 2] — 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.