



Photography

Merit Badge Workbook



This workbook can help you but you still need to read the merit badge pamphlet.
This Workbook can help you organize your thoughts as you prepare to meet with your merit badge counselor

Merit Badge Counselors may not require the use of this or any similar workbooks.

You still must satisfy your counselor that you can demonstrate each skill and have learned the information. You should use the work space provided for each requirement to keep track of which requirements have been completed, and to make notes for discussing the item with your counselor, not for providing full and complete answers.

If a requirement says that you must take an action using words such as "discuss", "show", "tell", "explain", "demonstrate", "identify", etc, that is what you must do.

No one may add or subtract from the official requirements found on [Scouting.org/meritbadges/](https://www.scouting.org/meritbadges/).

The requirements were last revised on January 1, 2024 • This workbook was updated in January 2024.

Scout's Name: _____ Unit _____ Date Started _____

Counselor's Name: _____ Phone No.: _____ Email: _____

Please submit errors, omissions, comments or suggestions about this **workbook** to: Workbooks@USScouts.Org

Comments or suggestions for changes to the **requirements** for the **merit badge** should be sent to: Merit.Badge@Scouting.Org

1. Safety. Do the following:

- a. View the Personal Safety Awareness "Digital Safety" video (with your parent or guardian's permission)
- b. Explain to your counselor the most likely hazards you may encounter while working with photography and what you should do to anticipate, mitigate, prevent, and respond to these hazards.

Explain how you would prepare for exposure to environmental situations such as weather, sun, and water.

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2. Explain how the following elements and terms can affect the quality of a picture:

- a. Light—natural light (ambient/existing), low light (such as at night), and artificial light (such as from a flash)

Natural light
(ambient/existing):

low light
(such as at night)

artificial light
(such as from a
flash)

- b. Exposure-aperture (f-stops), shutter speed, ISO

Aperture (f-stops):

Shutter speed:

ISO

- c. Depth of field

d. Composition-rule of thirds, leading lines, framing, depth

Rule of thirds:

Leading lines:

Framing:

Depth:

e. Angle of view

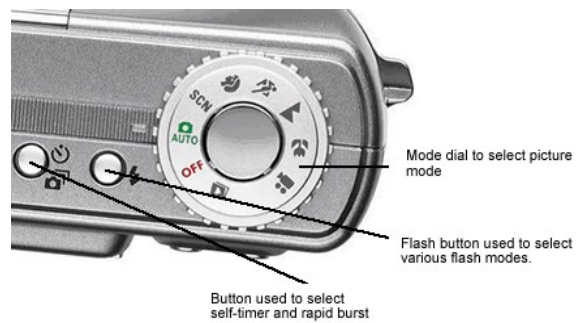
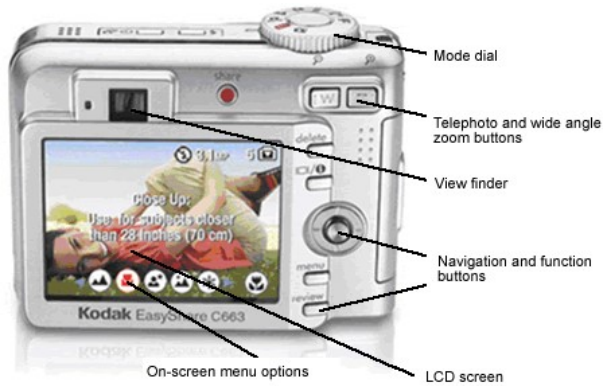
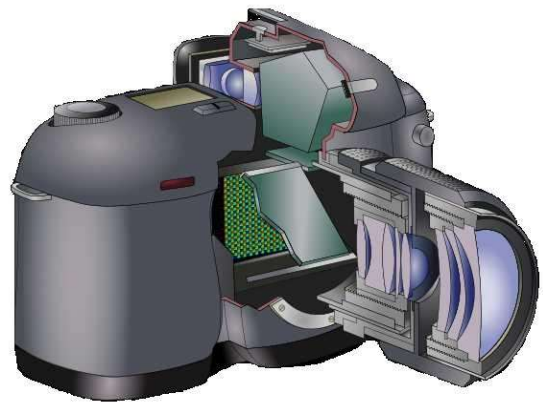
f. Stop action and blur motion

Stop Action

Blur motion

g. Decisive moment (action or expression captured by the photographer)

3. Explain the basic parts and operation of a camera



Explain how an exposure is made when you take a picture.

4. Do TWO of the following, then share your work with your counselor.
- a. Photograph one subject from two different angles or perspectives.
 - b. Photograph one subject from two different light sources—artificial and natural.
 - c. Photograph one subject with two different depths of field.
 - d. Photograph one subject with two different compositional techniques.

5. Photograph THREE of the following, then share your work with your counselor
- a. Close-up of a person
 - b. Two to three people interacting
 - c. Action shot
 - d. Animal shot.
 - e. Nature shot
 - f. Picture of a person—candid, posed, or camera aware

6. Describe how software allows you to enhance your photograph after it is taken.

Select a photo you have taken, then do ONE of the following, and share what you have done with your counselor.

- a. Crop your photograph.
- b. Adjust the exposure or make a color correction.
- c. Show another way you could improve your picture for impact

7. Using images other than those created for requirements 4, 5 and 6, produce a visual story to document an event to photograph OR choose a topic that interests you to photograph. Do the following:
- a. Plan the images you need to photograph for your photo story.
 - b. Share your plan with your counselor, and get your counselor's input and approval before you proceed.
 - c. Select eight to 12 images that best tell your story. Arrange your images in order and mount the prints on a poster board, OR create an electronic presentation. Share your visual story with your counselor.

8. Identify three career opportunities in photography.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Pick one

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and explain to your counselor how to prepare for such a career.

Discuss what education and training are required, and why this profession might interest you.

When working on merit badges, Scouts and Scouters should be aware of some vital information in the current edition of the *Guide to Advancement* (BSA publication 33088). Important excerpts from that publication can be downloaded from <http://usscouts.org/advance/docs/GTA-Excerpts-meritbadges.pdf>. You can download a complete copy of the *Guide to Advancement* from <http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33088.pdf>.