# Merit Badge Workbook

The requirements shown in this workbook were issued in <u>2016</u> and were in effect until changes were made in <u>2020</u> and should be used only by Scouts who started work on the merit badge during that period.

The current requirements were issued (revised) in <u>2020</u>.

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

You 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 in Scouts BSA Requirements (Pub. 33216) and/or on Scouting.org

cout's Name:	Unit:
ounselor's Name:	Counselor's Phone No.:
Please submit errors, omissions Comments or suggestions for changes	, comments or suggestions about this <u>workbook</u> to: <u>Workbooks@USScouts.Org</u> to the <u>requirements</u> for the <u>merit badge</u> should be sent to: <u>Merit.Badge@Scouting.Org</u>
Make a timeline of the history of enviro	
1600s	
1700s	
1800s	
1900s	

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nvironmental Sc	ience	Scout's Name:
2000s		
Identify the c	ontribution made by the Boy Sco s, and important events.	outs of America to environmental science. Include dates, names of people or
Date	People/Organizations	Event
Define the fo species, end vehicle, fuel	angered species, extinction, poll	nunity, ecosystem, biosphere, symbiosis, niche, habitat, conservation, threatened ution prevention, brownfield, ozone, watershed, airshed, nonpoint source, hybrid
Population:		
Community	:	
Ecosystem	:	
Biosphere:		

Habitat: Conservation: Threatened species: Endangered species: Extinction Pollution prevention: Brownfield: Ozone: Watershed: Airshed: Nonpoint source:

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

**Environmental Science** 

	Hybr	id vehicle:	
	Fuel	coll:	
	ruei	ceii.	
3.		IE activity in EACH	I of the following categories (using the activities in this pamphlet as the bases for planning and s):
	a. E	cology	
	1.		speriment to find out how living things respond to changes in their environments. Discuss your th your counselor.
	2.		periment illustrating the greenhouse effect. Keep a journal of your data and observations. Discuss s with your counselor.
	☐ 3.	Discuss what is	an ecosystem. Tell how it is maintained in nature and how it survives.
	b. Ai	r Pollution	
	□ 1.		eriment to test for particulates that contribute to air pollution. Discuss your findings with your
		counselor.	
	2.	per gallon the c	s taken, mileage, and fuel consumption of a family car for seven days, and calculate how many miles ar gets. Determine whether any trips could have been combined ("chained") rather than taken out g the idea of trip chaining, determine how many miles and gallons of gas could have been saved in

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

☐ 3.	Explain what is acid rain. In your explanation, tell how it affects plants and the environment and the steps society can take to help reduce its effects.
c. Wat	ter Pollution
<u> </u>	Conduct an experiment to show how living things react to thermal pollution. Discuss your observations with your counselor.
<u> </u>	Conduct an experiment to identify the methods that could be used to mediate (reduce) the effects of an oil spill on waterfowl. Discuss your results with your counselor.
☐ 3.	Describe the impact of a waterborne pollutant on an aquatic community. Write a 100-word report on how that pollutant affected aquatic life, what the effect was, and whether the effect is linked to biomagnification.
d. Lan	d Pollution
<u> </u>	Conduct an experiment to illustrate soil erosion by water. Take photographs or make a drawing of the soil before
	and after your experiment, and make a poster showing your results. Present your poster to your patrol or troop. (Per National, "troop" means "unit".)

Scout's Name:

	2.	Perform an experiment to determine the effect of an oil spill on land. Discuss your conclusions with your counselor.
	3.	Photograph an area affected by erosion. Share your photographs with your counselor and discuss why the area has eroded and what might be done to help alleviate the erosion.
e.	End	angered Species
	1.	Do research on one endangered species found in your state. Find out what its natural habitat is, why it is endangered, what is being done to preserve it, and how many individual organisms are left in the wild. Prepare a 100-word report about the organism, including a drawing. Present your report to your patrol or troop.
	2.	Do research on one species that was endangered or threatened but which has now recovered. Find out how the organism recovered, and what its new status is. Write a 100-word report on the species and discuss it with your counselor.
	3.	With your parent's and counselor's approval, work with a natural resource professional to identify two projects that have been approved to improve the habitat for a threatened or endangered species in your area. Visit the site of one of these projects and report on what you saw.

Scout's Name:

Environmen	tal Science	Scout's Name:
f. Pol	Ilution Prevention, Resource Recovery, and Conservation	
1.	Look around your home and determine 10 ways your far methods for seven days and discuss with your counselor	nily can help reduce pollution. Practice at least two of these what you have learned.
☐ 2.	Determine 10 ways to conserve resources or use resour Practice at least two of these methods for seven days ar	
☐ 3.	with your councelor	t which ones are biodegradable. Discuss your conclusions
	e two outdoor study areas that are very different from one a vs. dry land). For BOTH study areas, do ONE of the follow	
	ork off a plot of 4 square yards in each study area, and cou ace is occupied by each plant species and the type and nu	nt the number of species found there. Estimate how much mber of non-plant species you find.
Stu	udy Plot Location 1:	_ Number of Species:
_	Plant Species	Space each occupies
_		

4.

Scout's	Name:		

Non-Plant Species	Number found
Study Plot Location 2:	Number of Species:
Plant Species	Space each occupies
Non-Plant Species	Number found

**Environmental Science** Scout's Name: Visit 2 Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time Started: \_\_\_\_\_ Time Ended \_\_\_\_\_ Observations of living parts: Observations of nonliving parts: Differences noted:

**Environmental Science** Scout's Name: Visit 3 Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time Started: \_\_\_\_\_ Time Ended \_\_\_\_\_ Observations of living parts: Observations of nonliving parts: Differences noted:

Differences noted:			

**Environmental Science** Scout's Name: Visit 2 Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time Started: \_\_\_\_\_ Time Ended \_\_\_\_\_ Observations of living parts: Observations of nonliving parts: Differences noted:

**Environmental Science** Scout's Name: Visit 3 Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time Started: \_\_\_\_\_ Time Ended \_\_\_\_\_ Observations of living parts: Observations of nonliving parts: Differences noted:

onmental Science	Scout's Name:
Then write a short report that adequately addresses y	our observations, including how the differences of the study
might relate to the differences noted, and discuss this	with your counselor.
	•
sing the construction project provided or a plan you creat	e on your own, identify the items that would need to be inclu
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Environmental Science	Scout's Name:		
6. Find out about three career opportunities in environment	al science.		
1.			
2.			
3.			
Pick one and explain how to prepare for such a career.			
Discuss with your counselor what education and training a Education	re required, and explain why this profession might interest you.		
Training			
Why this profession might interest you.			

Requirement resources can be found here:

http://www.meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Environmental Science#Requirement resources

# Important excerpts from the Guide To Advancement - 2013, No. 33088 (SKU-618673)

#### [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, Venturing, and Sea Scouts. It replaces any previous BSA advancement manuals, including *Advancement Committee Policies and Procedures*, *Advancement and Recognition Policies and Procedures*, 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.

#### [7.0.3.1] — The Buddy System and Certifying Completion

A youth member must not meet one-on-one with an adult. 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 verification. 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.

Note that from time to time, it may be appropriate for a requirement that has been met for one badge to also count for another. See "Fulfilling More Than One Requirement With a Single Activity," 4.2.3.6.

#### [7.0.3.2] — Group Instruction

events.

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. It is sometimes reported that Scouts who have received merit badges through group instructional settings have not fulfilled all the requirements. To offer a quality merit badge program, council and district advancement committees should ensure the following are in place for all group instructional

- Merit badge counselors are known to be registered and approved.
- Any guest experts or guest speakers, or others assisting who are not registered and approved as merit badge counselors, do not accept the
  responsibilities of, or behave as, merit badge counselors, either at a group instructional event or at any other time. Their service is temporary, not
  ongoing.
- Counselors agree not to assume prerequisites have been completed without some level of evidence that the work has been done. Pictures and
  letters from other merit badge counselors or unit leaders are the best form of prerequisite documentation when the actual work done cannot be
  brought to the camp or site of the merit badge event.
- There is a mechanism for unit leaders or others to report concerns to a council advancement committee on summer camp merit badge programs, group instructional events, and any other merit badge counseling issues—especially in instances where it is believed BSA procedures are not followed. See "Reporting Merit Badge Counseling Concerns," 11.1.0.0.
- 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.

### [7.0.3.3] — Partial Completions

A Scout need not pass all the requirements of one merit badge with the same counselor. It may be that due to timing or location issues, etc., he must meet with a different counselor to finish the badge. 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, the counselor does not retain his or her 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 unit leader 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 Scout's 18th birthday. Units, districts, or councils shall not establish other expiration dates for partial merit badges.

#### [7.0.4.8] — Unofficial Worksheets and Learning Aids

Worksheets and other materials that may be of assistance in earning merit badges are available from a variety of places including unofficial sources on the Internet and even troop libraries. Use of these aids is permissible as long as the materials can be correlated with the current requirements that Scouts must fulfill. Completing "worksheets" may suffice where a requirement calls for something in writing, but this would not work for a requirement where the Scout must discuss, tell, show, or demonstrate, etc. Note that Scouts shall not be required to use these learning aids in order to complete a merit badge.