



Safety

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 616334).

The requirements were last issued or revised in 2013 • This workbook was updated in May 2013.

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 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. Explain what safety is and what it means to be safe. Then prepare a notebook to include:
 - a. Newspaper and other stories, facts, and statistics showing common types and causes of injuries in the home and in the workplace, and how these injuries could be prevented.
 - b. Newspaper and other stories, facts, and statistics showing common kinds of crimes and ways to avoid being a crime victim.
 - c. Facts you have obtained concerning the frequency of accidents and of crimes in your local area.
 - d. A paragraph or more, written by you, explaining how a serious fire, accident, or crime could change your family life.
 - e. A list of safe practices and safety devices currently used by your family, such as safety practices used while driving or working and safety devices that prevent injuries or help in an emergency.
2. Do the following:
 - a. Using a safety checklist approved by your counselor, make an inspection of your home.
(There is a Home Safety Checklist you can use at the end of this workbook.)
 - b. Review or develop your family's plan of escape in case of fire in your home. As you develop the escape plan with family members, share with them facts about the common causes of fire in the home, such as smoking, cooking, electrical appliances, and candles.

3. Do the following:

- a. Discuss with your counselor how you contribute to the safety of yourself, your family, and your community.

- b. Show your family members how to protect themselves and your home from accidents, fire, burglary, robbery, and assault.

Accidents:

Fire:

Burglary:

Robbery:

Assault

- c. Discuss with your counselor the tips for online safety.

Explain the steps individuals can take to help prevent identity theft.

- d. Discuss with your counselor the three R's of Youth Protection and how to recognize child abuse.

The three R's of Youth Protection:

1.		
2.		
3.		

How to recognize child abuse:

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- 4. Show your family the exits you would use from different public buildings (such as a theater, municipal building, library, supermarket, shopping center, or your place of worship) in the event of an emergency. Teach your family what to do in the event that they need to take shelter in or evacuate a public place.

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- 5. Make an accident prevention plan for five family activities outside the home (at your place of worship, at a theater, on a picnic, at the beach, and while traveling, for example). Each plan should include an analysis of possible hazards, proposed action to correct hazards, and reasons for the correction you propose in each plan.

At your place of worship:

Possible Hazards:

Action to correct hazard:

Reasons:

At a Theater:

Possible Hazards:

Action to correct hazard:

Reasons:

On a picnic:

Possible Hazards:

Action to correct hazard:

Reasons:

At a beach:

Possible Hazards:

Action to correct hazard:

Reasons:

While traveling:

Possible Hazards:

Action to correct hazard:

Reasons:

- 6. Plan and complete a safety project approved by your counselor for your home, school, place of worship , place of employment, or community.

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7. Explain what the National Terrorism Advisory System is and how you would respond to each threat level..

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8. Learn about three career opportunities in the field of safety.

1.	
2.	
3.	

Pick one career and find out the education, training, and experience required for this profession.

Career:	
Education:	
Training:	
Experience:	

Discuss this choice with your counselor, and explain why this profession might interest you.

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Requirement resources can be found here:
http://www.meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Safety#Requirement_resources

Check safety steps that being taking in your home. Write N/A if the item is not applicable. Items left blank may present a safety hazard. This list provides some sample safety steps you might take. See your Safety Merit Badge pamphlet and counselor for more information. Ask your parent or guardian before making any changes.

Stairways, Halls, and Outdoor Steps

- Stairways with three or more steps have a strong handrail.
- Stairs/halls are kept free from boxes, toys, brooms, tools, etc.
- Gates at top and bottom of stairs prevent children from falling.
- The head and foot of stairs have no small or loose rugs.
- Stair carpeting or covering is fastened securely.
- Stairways & halls have good lighting, controllable at each end.

Kitchen

- Matches are kept where children cannot get them.
- Knives & sharp instruments are kept in knife drawers or holder.
- Can openers don't leave sharp edges on cans.
- Disinfectants & cleaning products are out of reach of children.
- Pan handles are turned away from stove edges.
- Spilled grease, water, or bits of food are wiped up immediately.
- Pot holders are within easy reach.
- A fire extinguisher is mounted near the stove.

Bathroom

- Tub and shower are equipped with strong handholds.
- Tub floor has non-slip surface.
- Poisons are marked, sealed shut, and out of reach of children.
- Medicines are out of reach of children in childproof containers.
- No one takes medicine in the dark.

Attic and Basement

- Ladder is strong, solid, and sturdily constructed.
- Stairway is sturdy and well lighted.
- Children keep skates and play gear in a specific place.
- Walls and beams are free from protruding nails.
- Fuses or circuit breakers are the proper size.
- Rubbish & flammable materials are in covered metal cans.
- Wastepaper is kept away from furnace and stairs.

Living Room and Dining Room

- Furniture is placed to allow easy passage in an emergency.
- Before bedtime, furniture placement is checked for orderliness.
- Furniture and woodwork solid, in good repair, and free from.
- Fireplace screen fits snugly.
- Rugs are fastened or laid on non-slip pads.
- Rugs are kept from curling at their edges.
- Wax on floors is thoroughly buffed.
- Fire in fireplace is extinguished at bedtime.
- Candles are in stable holders and fully extinguished after use.

Bedroom

- Smoke alarm has fresh battery or electrical connection & is tested regularly.
- Carbon monoxide detector has fresh battery or electrical connection and is tested regularly.
- Furniture placement for clear passage between bed and door.
- Light switch or lamp is within easy reach from bed.
- A night-light illuminates bedroom or hall.
- Bureau and dresser drawers are closed when not in use.
- Bar across bunk beds helps prevent falls.
- Children are taught not to lean against windows or screens.
- Sturdily screen low windows to prevent children from falling.
- Smoking in bed is prohibited.
- Gas and electric heating devices are turned off at bedtime.

Nursery

- Bars on cribs are closely spaced.
- Crib is approved by Consumer Products or similar.
- Crib is free from sharp edges or corners.
- Sleeping garments and covers keep baby warm without danger of smothering.
- Pillows are kept out of bassinet or crib.
- No thin, plastic material is in or near the crib.
- Children are taught not to give marbles, etc. to younger children.
- Toys are sturdy & have no sharp edges.
- Nontoxic paint is used on baby furniture and toys.
- All houseplants are nonpoisonous.

Stoves, Furnaces, and Heaters

- Stoves are away from curtains.
- Stoves & furnaces are inspected & cleaned annually.
- Gas burners are properly adjusted and free from leaks.
- Gas water and space heaters are equipped with vents or flues.
- Water heater or boiler has a safety valve & is checked yearly.
- Flames of gas burners are protected from drafts.
- Insulating shield protects woodwork within 18" of furnace, etc.
- Keep flammable materials away from stoves, furnaces, etc.
- A wrench is stored near the shut-off valve of outside gas line.

Porch, Yard, and Garage

- Railings and banisters are sound and inspected periodically.
- Steps and walks are kept free from ice and snow.
- Yard/play space are free from holes, stones, glass, etc.
- Tools and dangerous articles are out of reach of children.
- Dangerous products & chemicals are kept in original containers in locked storage areas.
- Wires and low fences are brightly painted or clearly marked.
- Wells, cisterns, and pits are kept securely covered.
- Disposable materials are not burned outside.
- An area is marked off in the garage for bicycles, wagons, etc.
- Lawn mower is equipped with proper safeguards.

Workshop

- Good ventilation exists, especially when sanding.
- Safety goggles and/or face mask are available, with eyewash.
- Baking soda is kept handy to neutralize acid burns.
- All electrical tools are either three-wire or double-insulated.
- Work area is well lit & free of clutter, scraps, rags.
- All tools have a place & are in their place.
- Guards are in place on all power tools.
- A push stick is available for use with power saws.

Electrical Devices and Fixtures

- Electrical fixtures and appliances are located & used beyond arm's length of the sink, stove, tub, shower, or other grounded metal unless outlet is protected by a ground-fault interrupter.
- Do not touch electrical fixtures or appliances with wet hands.
- Disconnect seldom-used appliances when not in use.
- All pull-type sockets have an insulating link.

- Household appliances are disconnected before repairs.
- Unused, open, screw-type sockets are plugged closed.
- Frayed or worn electric cords are promptly replaced.
- Long trailing cords are not in evidence.
- UA-approved extension cords are the proper size.
- Cords are kept out from under rugs, doors, and furniture.
- Children are taught never to touch electric sockets or fixtures.
- Fuses are adequate for the load and are not bypassed.
- Circuit breakers are not overloaded.

General

- At least one smoke detector in each bedroom & garage.
- Everything has a place and is in its place.
- Stepladders are in good repair and stored out of the way.
- Window screens and storm windows are securely fastened.
- Guns are stored unloaded and in locked cases.
- Guns and ammunition are stored separately.
- Children are permitted to use only blunt-end scissors.
- Housework clothing has no drooping sleeves, sashes, or frills.
- Shoes worn for housework have low heels.
- All shoes are in good repair.
- Kerosene, gasoline, paint thinners, and other volatile materials are stored outside in special, clearly marked metal containers.
- Oil mops, dust rags, painting equipment, and other oily materials are stored outside in open metal containers.
- Everyone turns on a light before entering a dark room.
- Matches are extinguished before they're thrown away.
- Children are never permitted to play with matches.
- Fire extinguishers are readily available.

For Emergency

- Know how to get emergency help (911, poison control, etc.).
- Be able to find water, gas, & electric shutoffs. Check annually.
- First aid kit approved by your doctor/American Red Cross.
- Know basic first aid procedures.
- Have a fire escape plan from your home.
- Emergency water supply.
- Handheld flashlights readily available.
- In earthquake-prone areas, make sure that the water heater and bookcases are bolted to the walls.

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. Partial completions have no expiration except the 18th birthday.