



# Climbing

## 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.

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.

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

No one may add or subtract from the official requirements found in Boy Scout Requirements (Pub. 33216 – SKU 637685).

The requirements were last issued or revised in 2017 • This workbook was updated in January 2017.

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](mailto:Workbooks@USScouts.Org)  
 Comments or suggestions for changes to the **requirements** for the **merit badge** should be sent to: [Merit.Badge@Scouting.Org](mailto:Merit.Badge@Scouting.Org)

**1. Do the following:**

- a. Explain to your counselor the most likely hazards you may encounter while participating in climbing activities, and what you should do to anticipate, help prevent, mitigate, and respond to these hazards.


- b. Show that you know first aid for and how to prevent injuries or illnesses that could occur during climbing activities, including heat and cold reactions, dehydration, stopped breathing, sprains, abrasions, fractures, rope burns, blisters, snakebite, and insect bites or stings.

Heat and cold reactions:


Dehydration:


Stopped breathing:


Sprains:


Abrasions:


Fractures:


Rope burns


Blisters:


Snakebite:


Insect bites or stings


b. Identify the conditions that must exist before performing CPR on a person.


2. Learn the Leave No Trace principles and Outdoor Code, and explain what they mean.


3.  Present yourself properly dressed for belaying, climbing, and rappelling (i.e., appropriate clothing, footwear and a helmet; rappellers can also wear gloves).

4. **Location.** Do the following:

a. Explain how the difficulty of climbs is classified, and apply classifications to the rock faces or walls where you will demonstrate your climbing skills.

Class 1


Class 2


Class 3


Class 4


Class 5


Classifications:


b. Explain the following: top-rope climbing, lead climbing, and bouldering.

Top-rope climbing:


Lead climbing


Bouldering:


c. Evaluate the safety of a particular climbing area. Consider weather, visibility, the condition of the climbing surface and any environmental hazards.

Weather:


Visibility:


Condition of the climbing surface:


Environmental hazards:


d. Determine how to summon aid to the climbing area in case of an emergency.


5. **Verbal signals.** Explain the importance of using verbal signals during every climb and rappel, and while bouldering.


With the help of the merit badge counselor or another Scout, demonstrate the verbal signals used by each of the following:

a. Climbers


b. Rappellers


c. Belayers


d. Boulderers and their spotters


6. **Rope.** Do the following:

a. Describe the kind of rope acceptable for use in climbing and rappelling.


b.  Show how to examine a rope for signs of wear or damage.

c. Discuss ways to prevent a rope from being damaged.


d. Explain when and how a rope should be retired.


e.  Properly coil a rope.

7. **Knots.** Demonstrate the ability to tie each of the following knots.

Give at least one example of how each knot is used in belaying, climbing or rappelling.

Knot	Use in Belaying	Use in Climbing	Use in Rappelling
a. Figure eight on a bight			
b. Figure eight follow-through			
c. Water knot			
d. Double fisherman's knot (Grapevine knot)			
e. Safety Knot			

8. **Harnesses.** Correctly put on a commercially made climbing harness

9. **Belaying.** Do the following:

a. Explain the importance of belaying climbers and rappellers and when it is necessary.


b. Belay three different climbers ascending a rock face or climbing wall.

	Climbers	Date	What/where
<input type="checkbox"/> 1.			
<input type="checkbox"/> 2.			
<input type="checkbox"/> 3.			

c. Belay three different rappellers descending a rock face or climbing wall using a top rope.

	Rapellers	Date	What/where
<input type="checkbox"/> 1.			
<input type="checkbox"/> 2.			
<input type="checkbox"/> 3.			

10. **Climbing.**

- a.  Show the correct way to tie into a belay rope.
- b.  Climb at least three different routes on a rock face or climbing wall, demonstrating good technique and using verbal signals with a belayer.

11. **Rappelling.**

- a.  Using a carabiner and a rappel device, secure your climbing harness to a rappel rope.
- b.  Tie into a belay rope set up to protect rappellers.
- c. Rappel down three different rock faces or three rappel routes on a climbing wall. Use verbal signals to communicate with a belayer, and demonstrate good rappelling technique.

	Face or Route	Date	Verbal Signals
<input type="checkbox"/> 1.			

<input type="checkbox"/> 2.			
<input type="checkbox"/> 3.			

12.  Demonstrate ways to store rope, hardware, and other gear used for climbing, rappelling and belaying.

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

***The Principles of Leave No Trace***

1. Plan Ahead and Prepare
2. Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
3. Dispose of Waste Properly (Pack It In, Pack It Out)
4. Leave What You Find
5. Minimize Campfire Impacts
6. Respect Wildlife
7. Be Considerate of Other Visitors

***Outdoor Code***

As an American, I will do my best to—

***Be clean in my outdoor manners.*** I will treat the outdoors as a heritage. I will take care of it for myself and others. I will keep my trash and garbage out of lakes, streams, fields, woods, and roadways.

***Be careful with fire.*** I will prevent wildfire. I will build my fires only when and where they are appropriate. When I have finished using a fire, I will make sure it is cold out. I will leave a clean fire ring, or remove all evidence of my fire.

***Be considerate in the outdoors.*** I will treat public and private property with respect. I will follow the principles of Leave No Trace for all outdoor activities.

***Be conservation-minded.*** I will learn about and practice good conservation of soil, waters, forests, minerals, grasslands, wildlife, and energy. I will urge others to do the same.



## **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.

### **[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. If merit badge counseling or instruction includes any Web-based interaction, it must be conducted in accordance with the BSA Social Media Guidelines (<http://www.scouting.org/Marketing/Resources/SocialMedia>). For example, always copy one or more authorized adults on email messages between counselors and Scouts.

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**

It is acceptable—and sometimes desirable—for merit badges to be taught in group settings. This often occurs at camp and merit badge midways, fairs, clinics, 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 events.

- A culture is established for merit badge group instructional events that partial completions are acceptable expected results.
- A guide or information sheet is distributed in advance of events that promotes the acceptability of partials, explains how merit badges can be finished after events, lists merit badge prerequisites, and provides other helpful information that will establish realistic expectations for the number of merit badges that can be earned at an event.
- 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 to sign off only requirements that Scouts have actually and personally completed.
- 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.

It is permissible for guest speakers, guest experts, or others who are not merit badge counselors to assist in the counseling process. Those providing such assistance must be under the direction of a registered and approved counselor who is readily available onsite, and provides personal supervision to assure all applicable BSA policies and procedures—including those related to BSA Youth Protection—are in place and followed.

### **[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. Partial completions 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.