



Search and Rescue

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 619576).

The requirements were last issued or revised in **2014** • This workbook was updated in January 2014.

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. Do the following:

- a. Explain to your counselor the hazards you are most likely to encounter while participating in search and rescue (SAR) activities, and what you should do to anticipate, help prevent, mitigate, and respond to these hazards..

Hazards:

What you should do :

Anticipate

Prevent

Mitigate

Respond

- b. Discuss first aid and prevention for the types of injuries or illnesses that could occur while participating in SAR activities, including: snakebites, dehydration, shock, environmental emergencies such as hypothermia or heatstroke, blisters, and ankle and knee sprains.

Snakebites:

Dehydration:

Shock:

Hypothermia:

Heatstroke:

Blisters:

Ankle
sprains:

Knee
sprains:

2. Demonstrate knowledge to stay found and prevent yourself from becoming the subject of a SAR mission:

- a. How does the buddy system help in staying found and safe?

- b. How can knowledge of the area and its seasonal weather changes affect your plans?

- c. Explain how the Ten Essentials are similar to a “ready pack.”

[illegible]

3. Discuss the following with your counselor:

- a. The difference between search and rescue.

- b. The difference between PLS (place last seen) and LKP (last known point).

PLS

LKP

c. The meaning of these terms:.

1. AFRCC (Air Force Rescue Coordination Center)

2. IAP (Incident Action Plan)

3. ICS (Incident Command System)

4. Evaluating search urgency

5. Establishing confinement

6. Scent item

7. Area air scent dog

8. Briefing and debriefing

4. Find out who in your area has authority for search and rescue and what their responsibilities are.

Who: _____

Responsibilities:

Discuss this with your counselor, and explain the official duties of a search and rescue team.

5. ☐ Working with your counselor, become familiar with the Incident Command System. You may use any combination of resource materials, such as printed or online.

Discuss with your counselor how the ICS compares with Scouting's patrol method.*

*Scouts who have already completed the original requirement 5 as published in the current Search and Rescue merit badge pamphlet need not redo this updated requirement in order to earn the badge.

6. Identify four types of search and rescue teams and discuss their use or role with your counselor.

1.

2.

3.

4.

Then do the following:

- a. Interview a member of one of the teams you have identified above, and learn how this team contributes to a search and rescue operation. Discuss what you learned with your counselor.

- b. Describe the process and safety methods of working around at least two of the specialized SAR teams you identified above.

1.

2.

- c. Explain the differences between wilderness, urban, and water SARs..

Wilderness SAR

Urban SAR

Water SAR

7. Discuss the Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) system, latitude, and longitude.

UTM System:

Latitude:

Longitude:

Then do the following:

- ☐ a. Using a 1:24,000 scale USGS topographic map, show that you can identify a location of your choice using UTM coordinates..
- ☐ b. Using a 1:24,000 scale map, ask your counselor to give you a UTM coordinate on the map, then identify that location.
- ☐ c. Show that you can identify your current location using the UTM coordinates on your Global Positioning System unit and verify it on a 1:24,000 scale map..
- ☐ d. Determine a hypothetical place last seen, and point out an area on your map that could be used for containment using natural or human-made boundaries..

8. Choose a hypothetical scenario, either one presented in this merit badge pamphlet or one created by your counselor.

Scenario: _____

Then do the following

- a. Complete an incident objectives form for this scenario.

- b. Complete an Incident Action Plan (IAP) to address this scenario.

- c. Discuss with your counselor the behavior of a lost person and how that would impact your incident action plan (for example, the differences between searching for a young child versus a teen)...

- d. After completing 8a–8c, discuss the hypothetical scenario with your counselor

[illegible]

9. Discuss with your counselor the terms hasty team and hasty search.

Hasty team:

[illegible]

Hasty search:

[illegible]

Then do the following:

- ☐ a. Plan and carry out a practice hasty search—either urban or wilderness—for your patrol or troop. Include the following elements in the search: clue awareness, evidence preservation, tracking the subject, and locating the subject using attraction or trail sweep.

- ☐ b. When it's over, hold a team debriefing to discuss the hasty search.
Discuss problems encountered, successful and unsuccessful tactics, and ideas for improvement.

10. Find out about three career or volunteer opportunities in search and rescue.

1.	
2.	
3.	

Pick one and find out the education, training, and experience required for this professional or volunteer position.

Opportunity:	
Education:	
Training :	
Experience:	

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

Requirement resources can be found here:

[http://www.meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Search and Rescue#Requirement resources](http://www.meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Search_and_Rescue#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, Varsity 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

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 events.

- 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.