



Genealogy

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 34765).

The requirements were last issued or revised in 2006 • This workbook was updated in April 2012.

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 improving this workbook to: Workbooks@USScouts.org

1. Explain to your counselor what the words genealogy, ancestor, and descendant mean.

Genealogy: _____

Ancestor: _____

Descendant: _____

2. Do ONE of the following:

- a. Do a time line for yourself or for a relative.

Then write a short biography based on that time line. _____

Pedigree Chart

Scout's Name: _____

- b. Keep a journal for 6 weeks. You must write in it at least once a week. _____

- 3. With your parent's help, choose a relative or a family acquaintance you can interview in person, by telephone, or by e-mail or letter. Record the information you collect so you do not forget it. _____

- 4. Do the following:
 - a. Name three types of genealogical resources and explain how these resources can help you chart your family tree.
 - 1. _____
 - 2. _____
 - 3. _____
 - b. Obtain at least one genealogical document that supports an event that is or can be recorded on your pedigree chart or family group record. The document could be found at home or at a government office, religious organization, archive, or library.
 - c. Tell how you would evaluate the genealogical information you found for requirement 4b. _____

- 5. Contact ONE of the following individuals or institutions.
 - a. A genealogical or lineage society
 - b. A professional genealogist (someone who gets paid for doing genealogical research)
 - c. A surname organization, such as your family's organization

Pedigree Chart

Scout's Name: _____

- d. A genealogical education facility or institution.
- e. A genealogical record repository of any type (courthouse, genealogical library, state or national archive, state library, etc.)

Ask what genealogical services, records, or activities this individual or institution provides, and report the results: _____

- 6. Begin your family tree by listing yourself and include at least two additional generations. You may complete this requirement by using the chart provided in the *Genealogy* merit badge pamphlet or the genealogy software program of your choice. (See the sample Pedigree Chart at the end of this workbook)
- 7. Complete a family group record form, listing yourself and your brothers and sisters as the children. On another family group record form, show one of your parents and his or her brothers and sisters as the children. This requirement may be completed using the chart provided or the genealogy software program of your choice. (See the sample Family Group Record Charts at the end of this workbook)

8. Do the following:

- a. Explain the effect computers and the Internet are having on the world of genealogy. _____

- b. Explain how photography (including microfilming) has influenced genealogy. _____

9. Discuss what you have learned about your family and your family members through your genealogical research. _____

Requirement resources can be found here:

http://www.meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Genealogy#Requirement_resources

Pedigree Chart

Scout's Name: _____

<p>Me</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Born: _____</p> <p>Place: _____</p> <p>Married: _____</p> <p>Place: _____</p> <p>Died: _____</p> <p>Place: _____</p>	<p><u>My Father:</u></p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Born: _____</p> <p>Place: _____</p> <p>Married: _____</p> <p>Place: _____</p> <p>Died: _____</p> <p>Place: _____</p>	<p><u>His Father:</u> Name: _____</p> <p>Born: _____</p> <p>Place: _____</p> <p>Married: _____</p> <p>Place: _____</p> <p>Died: _____</p> <p>Place: _____</p>
	<p><u>My Mother:</u></p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Born: _____</p> <p>Place: _____</p> <p>Married: _____</p> <p>Place: _____</p> <p>Died: _____</p> <p>Place: _____</p>	<p><u>His Mother:</u> Name: _____</p> <p>Born: _____</p> <p>Place: _____</p> <p>Married: _____</p> <p>Place: _____</p> <p>Died: _____</p> <p>Place: _____</p>
		<p><u>Her Father:</u> Name: _____</p> <p>Born: _____</p> <p>Place: _____</p> <p>Married: _____</p> <p>Place: _____</p> <p>Died: _____</p> <p>Place: _____</p>
		<p><u>Her Mother:</u> Name: _____</p> <p>Born: _____</p> <p>Place: _____</p> <p>Married: _____</p> <p>Place: _____</p> <p>Died: _____</p> <p>Place: _____</p>

Family Group Record (Listing you as a child)

Scout's Name: _____

Husband's Name	
Birth Date	Place
Died	Place
Married	Place
Father's Name	Mother's Name
Other info	
Wife's Maiden Name	
Birth Date	Place
Died	Place
Father's Name	Mother's Name
Other info	
Children (list whether living or dead, in order of Birth)	
Name	Male/Female
Birth Date	Place
Spouse's Name	Other Info
Died	Place
Married	Place
Name	Male/Female
Birth Date	Place
Spouse's Name	Other Info
Died	Place
Married	Place
Name	Male/Female
Birth Date	Place
Spouse's Name	Other Info
Died	Place
Married	Place
Name	Male/Female
Birth Date	Place
Spouse's Name	Other Info
Died	Place
Married	Place
Name	Male/Female
Birth Date	Place
Spouse's Name	Other Info
Died	Place
Married	Place

Family Group Record (Listing one of your parents as a child)

Scout's Name: _____

Husband's Name	
Birth Date	Place
Died	Place
Married	Place
Father's Name	Mother's Name
Other info	
Wife's Maiden Name	
Birth Date	Place
Died	Place
Father's Name	Mother's Name
Other info	
Children (list whether living or dead, in order of Birth)	
Name	Male/Female
Birth Date	Place
Spouse's Name	Other Info
Died	Place
Married	Place
Name	Male/Female
Birth Date	Place
Spouse's Name	Other Info
Died	Place
Married	Place
Name	Male/Female
Birth Date	Place
Spouse's Name	Other Info
Died	Place
Married	Place
Name	Male/Female
Birth Date	Place
Spouse's Name	Other Info
Died	Place
Married	Place
Name	Male/Female
Birth Date	Place
Spouse's Name	Other Info
Died	Place
Married	Place

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. Partials have no expiration except the 18th birthday.