



American Heritage™

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

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

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.

No one may add or subtract from the official requirements found on Scouting.org.

The requirements were last issued or revised in 2020 • This workbook was updated in November 2023.

Scout's Name: _____ Unit _____ Date Started _____

Counselor's Name: _____ Phone No.: _____ Email: _____

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. Read the Declaration of Independence. Pay close attention to the section that begins with "We hold these truths to be self-evident" and ends with "to provide new Guards for future security." Rewrite that section in your own words, making it as easy to understand as possible. Then share your writing with your merit badge counselor and discuss the importance of the Declaration of Independence.

2. Do TWO of the following:

- a. Select two individuals from American history, one a political leader (a president, senator, etc.) and the other a private citizen (a writer, religious leader, etc.). Find out about each person's accomplishments and compare the contributions each has made to America's heritage.

1. Political Leader:

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Accomplishments & Contributions

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2. Private Citizen:

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Accomplishments & Contributions

c b. With your counselor's approval, choose an organization that has promoted some type of positive change in American society.

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Find out why the organization believed this change was necessary and how it helped to accomplish the change.

Why:

How:

Discuss how this organization is related to events or situations from America's past.

- c c. With your counselor's approval, interview two veterans of the U.S. military. Find out what their experiences were like. Ask the veterans what they believe they accomplished.

Veteran 1:

Experiences & accomplishments

Veteran 2:

Experiences & accomplishments

- c d. With your counselor's approval, interview three people in your community of different ages and occupations. Ask these people what America means to them, what they think is special about this country, and what American traditions they feel are important to preserve.

Person 1:

What America means to them

What do they think is special about this country?

What American traditions are important to preserve?

Person 2:

--

What America means to them

What do they think is special about this country?

What American traditions are important to preserve?

Person 3:

--

What America means to them

What do they think is special about this country?

What American traditions are important to preserve?

3. Do the following:

a Select a topic related to the United States that is currently in the news.

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Describe to your counselor what is happening.

Explain how today's events are related to or affected by the events and values of America's past.

- b. For each of the following, describe its adoption, tell about any changes since its adoption, and explain how each one continues to influence Americans today: the flag, the Pledge of Allegiance, the Great Seal of the United States, the motto, and the national anthem.

The Flag:

Adoption

Changes

Influence today

The Pledge of Allegiance:

Adoption

Changes

Influence today

The Great Seal: of the United States

Adoption

Changes

Influence today

The Motto:

Adoption

Changes

Influence today

Tell about any National Register properties in your area. Share the map with your counselor, and describe the historical points you have indicated.

- c b. Research an event of historical importance that took place in or near your area. If possible, visit the place. Tell your counselor about the event and how it affected local history.

Describe how the area looked then and what it now looks like.

Then	
Now	

- c c. Find out when, why, and how your town or neighborhood started, and what ethnic, national, or racial groups played a part.

When:	
Why:	
How	
What groups:	

Find out how the area has changed over the past 50 years and try to explain why.

- c d. Take an active part in a program about an event or person in American history. Report to your counselor about the program, the part you took, and the subject.

- c e. Visit a historic trail or walk in your area. _____
 After your visit, share with your counselor what you have learned. Discuss the importance of this location and explain why you think it might qualify for National Register listing.

5. Do ONE of the following:

- a. Watch two motion pictures (with the approval and permission of your counselor and parent) that are set in some period of American history. Describe to your counselor how accurate each film is with regard to the historical events depicted and also with regard to the way the characters are portrayed.

Film 1:

--

Period	
Accuracy of time	
Accuracy of characters	

Film 2:

--

Period	
Accuracy of time	
Accuracy of characters	

- b. Read a biography (with your counselor's approval) of someone who has made a contribution to America's heritage. Tell some things you admire about this individual and some things you do not admire.

Explain why you think this person has made a positive or a negative contribution to America's heritage.

- c. Listen to recordings of popular songs from various periods of American history. Share five of these songs with your counselor, and describe how each song reflects the way people felt about the period in which it was popular. If a recording is not available, have a copy of the lyrics available.

Song 1.

Song 2.

Song 3.

Song 4.

Song 5.

