



# Pottery

## 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 Scouts BSA Requirements (Pub. 33216 – SKU 653801).

The requirements were last issued or revised in 2009 • This workbook was updated in June 2020.

Scout's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Counselor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

<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. Explain to your counselor the precautions that must be followed for the safe use and operation of a potter's tools, equipment, and other materials.

Tools:


Equipment:


Other materials:


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2. Do the following:

a. Explain the properties and ingredients of a good clay body for the following:

1. Making sculpture


2. Throwing on the wheel


b. Tell how three different kinds of potter's wheels work.

1.


2.


3.


- 3. Make two drawings of pottery forms, each on an 8 1/2 by 11 inch sheet of paper. One must be a historical pottery style. The other must be of your own design.  
*(There are two sheets of blank graph paper at the end of this workbook, which may be used for these drawings.)*
- 4. Explain the meaning of the following pottery terms: bat, wedging, throwing, leather hard, bone dry, greenware, bisque, terra-cotta, grog, slip, score, earthenware, stoneware, porcelain, pyrometric cone, and glaze.

Bat:


Wedging:


Throwing:


Leather hard:


Bone dry:


Greenware:


Bisque:


Terra-cotta:


Grog:


Slip:


Score:


Earthenware:


Stoneware:


Porcelain:


Pyrometric cone:


Glaze.


5. Do the following. Each piece is to be painted, glazed, or otherwise decorated by you:
  - a. Make a slab pot, a coil pot, and a pinch pot.
    - Slab pot
    - Coil pot
    - Pinch pot
  - b. Make a human or animal figurine or decorative sculpture.
  - c. Throw a functional form on a potter's wheel.
  - d. Help to fire a kiln.
6. Explain the scope of the ceramic industry in the United States. Tell some things made other than craft pottery.


7. With your parent's permission and your counselor's approval, do ONE of the following:
  - a. Visit the kiln yard at a local college or other craft school. Learn how the different kinds of kilns work, including low-fire electric, gas or propane high-fire, wood or salt/soda, and raku.

Low-fire electric:


Gas or propane high-fire:


Wood or salt/soda:


Raku:


- b. Visit a museum, art exhibit, art gallery, artists' co-op, or artist's studio that features pottery. After your visit, share with your counselor what you have learned.


- c. Using resources from the library, magazines, the Internet (with your parent's permission), and other outlets, learn about the historical and cultural importance of pottery. Share what you discover with your counselor.


- 8. Find out about career opportunities in pottery.


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

Career	_____				
Education:	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td></tr> </table>				
Training:	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td></tr> </table>				
Experience:	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td></tr> <tr><td> </td></tr> </table>				

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


When working on merit badges, Scouts and Scouters should be aware of some vital information in the current edition of the *Guide to Advancement* (BSA publication 33088). Important excerpts from that publication can be downloaded from <http://usscouts.org/advance/docs/GTA-Excerpts-meritbadges.pdf>.  
You can download a complete copy of the *Guide to Advancement* from <http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33088.pdf>.





