

## **Online Merit Badge Syllabus Communication**

### **Introduction:**

Communication is a crucial lifelong skill which is necessary for every profession and for daily life. Some aspects of communication come naturally while others may challenge us. The Communication merit badge allows scouts an opportunity to reflect on the parts of communication which come naturally to them and to engage with aspects that they may find challenging. Our online summer merit badge course allows Scouts to engage with this experience from the safety of their own homes during these unprecedented times.

### **Prerequisites:**

- Requirement 5: Attend a public meeting (city council, school board, debate) approved by your counselor where several points of view are given on a single issue. Practice active listening skills and take careful notes of each point of view. Prepare an objective report that includes all points of view that were expressed, and share this with your counselor.
- Requirement 8: Plan a Troop or Crew court of honor, campfire program, or interfaith worship service. Have the Patrol Leaders' Council approve it, then write the script and prepare the program. Serve as master of ceremonies.

### **Program:**

#### **Day 1:**

Scouts will be welcomed to the class and we will start off our exploration of communications by listing methods of communication and reflecting on when they are and are not appropriate. (Requirement 1D)

We will then assign tasks for scouts to complete on their own, allowing their independence, initiative and creativity to shine.

First they will be tasked with interviewing a person whom they respect. This will be due the following day when each Scout will introduce this person as if they were a guest speaker to the class. (Requirement 4)

As part of this class, every scout will be expected to prepare a five minute speech on a topic of their choice, due on day 4. We will introduce the speeches and encourage scouts to prepare early. This requirement is open ended and is a great opportunity for scouts to assert their creativity! (within appropriate limits of course). It is also a great opportunity for scouts to get experience in public speaking and presenting to a group. (Requirement 3)

We will also introduce a writing task due at the end of the week. Writing is an important part of communicating and the badge gives an opportunity to further develop writing skills by sending a letter to the editor of a magazine or local newspaper. The topic is open ended, once again allowing scouts to decide what they think is important to communicate. This will be due at the end of the week (7A)

Of course time will be left at the end to answer any questions that scouts may have.

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### **Day 2:**

We will complete the interview assignment by having scouts introduce their interview subjects to the group as if they were going to speak. Sadly, they will not, but it will still be fascinating to hear about the amazing set of people who will be “introduced” to us!  
(Requirement 4)

For homework Scouts will have two options. For the artistically inclined or Scouts who want to work on their artistic side, there is an open ended assignment to create a creative way of expressing themselves and then present it the next day in class. For the business oriented in the class, there is an opportunity to develop a sales pitch and present it the following day. This will provide a great chance to practice a skill generally not taught in school!

### **Day 3:**

Scouts will present their creative projects from day two’s homework.  
We will take some extra time to remind the class of the speeches on day four and to answer any questions.

### **Day 4:**

Half the class will present their speeches!

### **Day 5:**

The other half the class will present their speeches!  
We will introduce their final homework assignment: Developing a teaching plan and teaching someone else a skill. Once again Scouts will be able to choose what they want to teach. (Subject to normal, rules, limitations and common sense guidelines)  
(Requirement Six)

### **Day 6:**

We will start off our final day with Scouts giving a brief report on their experience teaching someone.  
Lastly we will look at careers in communications. Of course every career is to some extent a career in communications but we will focus on those were communications is the primary task of the job.  
Finally we will wrap up any loose ends and say goodbye. One badge closer to Eagle!