



Safety

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 revised on January 1, 2024 • This workbook was updated in January 2024.

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. Explain what safety is and what it means to be safe.

Then prepare a notebook to include:

- ☐ a. Newspaper, internet (with parent or guardian's permission), or other articles, facts and statistics showing common types and causes of injuries in the home and in the workplace, and how these injuries could be prevented.
- ☐ b. Newspaper, internet (with parent's or guardian's permission), or other articles, facts, and statistics showing common types of crimes and ways to avoid being a crime victim.
- ☐ c. A paragraph or more, written by you, explaining how a serious fire, accident, crime, or natural disaster could change your family life.
- ☐ d. A list of safe practices and safety devices currently used by your family, such as safety practices used at home, while working, and while driving.

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2. Do the following:

- ☐ a. Using a safety checklist approved by your counselor, make an inspection of your home.
(There is a Home Safety Checklist you can use at the end of this workbook.)

Identify any hazards found and explain how these can be corrected.

Hazard	How to correct

- ☐ b. Review and develop your family's plan fire prevention plan. Review your family's emergency action plan for fire in your home. As you develop these plans with family members, share with them facts about the common causes of fire in the home, such as smoking, cooking, electrical appliances, and candles.

- ☐ c. Develop a family emergency action plan for a natural disaster.

- ☐ d. Explain what risk assessment is and its purpose.

- ☐ e. Explain the BSA's Commitment to Safety.

3. Do the following:

- ☐ a. Discuss with your counselor how you contribute to the safety of yourself, your family, and your community.

- ☐ b. Show your family members how to protect themselves and your home from accidents, fire, burglary, robbery, and assault.

Accidents:	
Fire:	
Burglary:	

Robbery:

Assault

- ☐ c. Discuss with your counselor the tips for online safety.

[illegible]

Explain the steps individuals can take to help prevent identity theft.

[illegible]

- ☐ d. Discuss with your counselor the three R's of Youth Protection and how to recognize child abuse.

The three R's of Youth Protection:

1.

2.

3.

How to recognize child abuse:

- ☐ 4. Show your family the exits you would use from different public buildings (such as a theater, municipal building, library, supermarket, shopping center, or your place of worship) in the event of an emergency. Teach your family what to do in the event that they need to take shelter in or evacuate a public place.

5. Make an emergency action plan for five family activities outside the home (at your place of worship, at a theater, on a picnic, at the beach, and while traveling, for example). Each plan should include an analysis of possible hazards, proposed action to correct hazards, and reasons for the correction you propose in each plan.

At your place of worship:

Possible Hazards:

Action to correct hazard:

- ☐ 6. Plan and complete a safety project approved by your counselor for your home, school, place of worship, place of employment, or community.

[illegible]

7. Explain what the National Terrorism Advisory System is and how you would respond to each type of alert.

[illegible]

8. Learn about three career opportunities in the field of safety.

1.	
2.	
3.	

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

Career:	
Education:	
Training:	
Experience:	

Discuss this choice 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>.

Check safety steps that are being taking in your home. Write N/A if the item is not applicable. Items left blank may present a safety hazard. This list provides some sample safety steps you might take. See your Safety Merit Badge pamphlet and counselor for more information. Ask your parent or guardian before making any changes.

Stairways, Halls, and Outdoor Steps

- ☐ Stairways with three or more steps have a strong handrail and slip resistant finish.
- ☐ Stairways & halls are kept free from boxes, toys, shoes, brooms, tools, and other tripping hazards.
- ☐ Gates at top and bottom of stairs prevent children from falling.
- ☐ The head and foot of stairs have no small or loose rugs.
- ☐ Stair carpeting or covering is fastened securely.
- ☐ Stairways & halls have good lighting, controllable at each end.

Kitchen

- ☐ Matches are kept where children cannot get them.
- ☐ Emergency numbers are posted next to the telephone, including 911 and poison control.
- ☐ Knives & sharp instruments are kept in knife drawers or holder.
- ☐ Can openers don't leave sharp edges on cans.
- ☐ Disinfectants & cleaning products are out of reach of children.
- ☐ Pan handles are turned away from stove edges.
- ☐ Spilled grease, water, or bits of food are wiped up immediately.
- ☐ Pot holders are located near the stove, within easy reach.
- ☐ A dry chemical fire extinguisher is mounted near the stove.

Attic and Basement

- ☐ Ladder is strong, solid, and sturdily constructed.
- ☐ Stairway is sturdy and well lighted.
- ☐ Children keep skates and play gear in a specific place.
- ☐ Walls and beams are free from protruding nails.
- ☐ Fuses or circuit breakers are the proper size.
- ☐ Rubbish & flammable materials are in covered metal cans.
- ☐ Wastepaper is kept away from furnace and stairs.

Living Room and Dining Room

- ☐ Furniture is placed to allow easy passage in an emergency.
- ☐ Before bedtime, furniture placement is checked for orderliness.
- ☐ Furniture and woodwork solid, in good repair, and free from splinters and rough spots.
- ☐ Fireplace screen fits snugly.
- ☐ Rugs are fastened or laid on non-slip pads.
- ☐ Rugs are kept from curling at their edges.
- ☐ Wax on floors is thoroughly buffed.
- ☐ Fire in fireplace is extinguished at bedtime.
- ☐ Candles are in stable holders and fully extinguished after use, before bedtime, or before leaving home.

Bathroom

- ☐ Tub and shower are equipped with strong handholds.
- ☐ Tub floor has non-slip surface.
- ☐ Poisons and dangerous chemicals are marked, sealed shut in original containers, and out of reach of children.
- ☐ Medicines are out of reach of children in childproof containers.
- ☐ No one takes medicine in the dark.

Bedroom

- ☐ Smoke alarm has fresh battery or secure electrical connection & is tested regularly.
- ☐ Carbon monoxide detector has fresh battery or secure electrical connection and is tested regularly.
- ☐ Furniture placement for clear passage between bed and door.
- ☐ Light switch or lamp is within easy reach from bed.
- ☐ A night-light illuminates bedroom or hall.
- ☐ Bureau and dresser drawers are closed when not in use.
- ☐ Bar across upper bunk beds helps prevent falls.
- ☐ Children are taught not to lean against windows or screens.
- ☐ Low sill windows have sturdy screens to prevent children from falling out.
- ☐ Smoking in bed is prohibited.
- ☐ Gas and electric heating devices are turned off at bedtime.

Nursery

- ☐ Bars on cribs are closely spaced – no more than 2 3/8" apart so baby's head cannot slip between them.
- ☐ Crib is approved by Consumer Products or similar.
- ☐ Crib is free from sharp edges or corners.
- ☐ Crib does not have a "drop" side.
- ☐ Sleeping garments and covers keep baby warm without danger of smothering.
- ☐ Pillows are kept out of bassinet or crib.
- ☐ No thin, plastic material is in or near the crib.
- ☐ No toys or objects in or near the crib or within reach of any child under 3 are less than 1 inch in diameter and 2 inches long.
- ☐ No toys or objects have small parts that can be removed.
- ☐ Children are taught not to give marbles, etc. to younger children.
- ☐ Toys are sturdy, do not come apart easily, & have no sharp edges or points.
- ☐ Nontoxic paint is used on baby furniture and toys.
- ☐ All houseplants are nonpoisonous.

Stoves, Furnaces, and Heaters

- ☐ Stoves are away from curtains.
- ☐ Stoves & furnace pipes and flues are inspected & cleaned annually.
- ☐ Gas burners are properly adjusted and free from leaks.
- ☐ Gas water and space heaters are equipped with vents or flues.
- ☐ Water heater or boiler has a safety valve & is checked yearly.
- ☐ Water heater temperature is set below 120 degrees Fahrenheit to reduce the risk of serious burns.
- ☐ Flames of gas burners are protected from drafts.
- ☐ Insulating shield protects woodwork within 18" of furnace, etc.
- ☐ Keep flammable materials away from stoves, furnaces, etc.
- ☐ A wrench is stored near the shut-off valve of outside gas line.
- ☐ The flue is opened before using the fireplace.

Porch, Yard, and Garage

- ☐ Railings and banisters are sound and inspected periodically.
- ☐ Steps and walks are kept free from ice and snow.
- ☐ Yard/play space are free from holes, stones, glass, etc.
- ☐ Tools and dangerous articles are out of reach of children.
- ☐ Dangerous products & chemicals are kept in original containers in locked storage areas.
- ☐ Wires and low fences are brightly painted or clearly marked.
- ☐ Wells, cisterns, and pits are kept securely covered.
- ☐ Disposable materials are not burned outside.
- ☐ An area is marked off in the garage for bicycles, wagons, etc.
- ☐ Lawn mower is equipped with proper safeguards.

Workshop

- ☐ Good ventilation exists, especially when sanding or painting.
- ☐ Safety goggles or face mask, and hearing protection are worn when working with or around power tools, and an appropriate eyewash is available.
- ☐ Baking soda is kept handy to neutralize acid burns.
- ☐ All electrical tools are either grounded with three-wire plugs or are double-insulated.
- ☐ Work area is well lit & free of clutter, scraps, rags.
- ☐ All tools have a place & are in their place.
- ☐ Guards are in place on all power tools.
- ☐ A push stick is available for use with power saws.
- ☐ Tools are unplugged when not in use and before changing blades, servicing or repairing.

Electrical Devices and Fixtures

- ☐ Electrical fixtures and appliances are located & used beyond arm's length of the sink, stove, tub, shower, or other grounded metal unless outlet is protected by a ground-fault interrupter.
- ☐ Do not touch electrical fixtures or appliances with wet hands.

- ☐ Disconnect seldom-used appliances when not in use.
- ☐ Household appliances are disconnected before repairs.
- ☐ Light bulbs are installed in all lamp sockets.
- ☐ All pull-type sockets have an insulating link.
- ☐ Frayed or worn electric cords are promptly replaced.
- ☐ Long trailing cords are not in evidence.
- ☐ Cords are kept out from under rugs, doors, and furniture.
- ☐ UA-approved extension cords are the proper size.
- ☐ Children are taught never to touch electric sockets or fixtures.
- ☐ Fuses are adequate for the load and are not bypassed.
- ☐ Circuit breakers are labeled and not overloaded.

General

- ☐ Home has smoke and Carbon Monoxide detectors, with at least one smoke detector in each bedroom, near the kitchen, and in the basement & garage.
- ☐ Everything has a place and is in its place.
- ☐ Stepladders are in good repair and stored out of the way.
- ☐ Window screens and storm windows are securely fastened.
- ☐ Guns are stored unloaded and in locked cases.
- ☐ Guns and ammunition are stored separately.
- ☐ Children are permitted to use only blunt-end scissors.
- ☐ Housework clothing has no drooping sleeves, sashes, or frills.
- ☐ Shoes worn for housework have low heels.
- ☐ All shoes are in good repair.
- ☐ Kerosene, gasoline, paint thinners, and other volatile materials are stored outside in special, clearly marked metal containers.
- ☐ Oil mops, dust rags, painting equipment, and other oily materials are stored outside in open metal containers.
- ☐ Everyone turns on a light before entering a dark room.
- ☐ Matches are extinguished before they're thrown away.
- ☐ Children are never permitted to play with matches.
- ☐ Fire extinguishers are readily available and in good working order.

For Emergency

- ☐ Know how to get emergency help (911, poison control, etc.).
- ☐ Be able to find water, gas, & electric shutoffs. Check annually.
- ☐ First aid kit approved by your doctor/American Red Cross.
- ☐ Know basic first aid procedures.
- ☐ Have a fire escape plan from your home.
- ☐ Emergency water supply.
- ☐ Handheld flashlights readily available.
- ☐ In earthquake-prone areas, make sure that the water heater and bookcases are bolted to the walls.