



Law

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 in Scouts BSA Requirements (Pub. + 33216) and/or 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. Define "law."

Tell some of its sources.

Describe what The "Rule of Law" is.

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Outline the functions the law serves.

2. Discuss TWO of the following:

- ☐ a. The Justinian Code, The Code of Hammurabi, and the Magna Carta.
- ☐ b. The development of the jury system.
- ☐ c. Two famous trials in history.

1.

2.

3. Tell what civil law is; tell what criminal law is.

Civil law:

Criminal law:

Tell the main differences between them.

Give examples of each.

Civil law:

Criminal law:

4. Ask five people (not more than one from your immediate family) about the role of law enforcement officers in our society. Discuss their answers with them.

1.

2.

3.	
4.	
5.	

- ☐ Go to a law enforcement officer in your neighborhood and ask about his or her responsibilities and duties.
Report your findings.

5. Discuss with your counselor several laws that were passed to protect the consumer and the seller.

Describe several organizations that provide help to consumers and sellers.

6. Do ONE of the following:

- ☐ a. Attend a session of a civil or criminal court. Write 250 words or more on what you saw.

- ☐ b. Plan and conduct a mock trial with your troop or school class. After the trial is over, discuss it with the group.

7. Arrange a visit with a lawyer who works for a business, bank, title company, or government agency. Find out his or her duties and responsibilities. Report what you learned.

8. Explain the requirements for becoming a lawyer in your state.

Describe how judges are selected in your state.

9. Make a list of 15 jobs which deal with some aspect of law or legal processes.

1.		9.	
2.		10.	
3.		11.	
4.		12.	
5.		13.	
6.		14.	
7.		15.	
8.			

Tell which you prefer.	
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10. Tell where people can go to obtain the help of a lawyer if they are unable to pay for one.

Tell what you can do if you can afford a lawyer but do not know of any in your area.

11. Discuss with your counselor the importance of TWO of the following areas of the law:

- ☐ a. Administrative
- ☐ b. Bankruptcy
- ☐ c. Environmental
- ☐ d. Family
- ☐ e. Immigration
- ☐ f. Information Technology
- ☐ g. Intellectual Property
- ☐ h. International
- ☐ i. Privacy

1.

2.

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>.