

MERIT BADGE SERIES



# INDIAN LORE



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

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*"Enhancing our youths' competitive edge through merit badges"*



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# Requirements

1. Identify the different American Indian cultural areas. Explain what makes them each unique.
2. Give the history of one American Indian tribe, group, or nation that lives or has lived near you. Visit it, if possible. Tell about traditional dwellings, way of life, tribal government, religious beliefs, family and clan relationships, language, clothing styles, arts and crafts, food preparation, means of getting around, games, customs in warfare, where members of the group now live, and how they live.
3. Do TWO of the following. Focus on a specific group or tribe.
  - a. Make an item of clothing worn by members of the tribe.
  - b. Make and decorate three items used by the tribe, as approved by your counselor.
  - c. Make an authentic model of a dwelling used by an Indian tribe, group, or nation.
  - d. Visit a museum to see Indian artifacts. Discuss them with your counselor. Identify at least 10 artifacts by tribe or nation, their shape, size, and use.
4. Do ONE of the following:
  - a. Learn three games played by a group or tribe. Teach and lead one game with a Scout group.
  - b. Learn and show how a tribe traditionally cooked or prepared food. Make three food items.
  - c. Give a demonstration showing how a specific Indian group traditionally hunted, fished, or trapped.

5. Do ONE of the following:
- a. Write or briefly describe how life might have been different for the European settlers if there had been no native Americans to meet them when they came to this continent.
  - b. Sing two songs in an Indian language. Explain their meanings.
  - c. Learn in an Indian language at least 25 common terms and their meanings.
  - d. Show 25 signs in Indian sign language. Include those that will help you ask for water, for food, and where the path or road leads.
  - e. Learn an Indian story of up to 300 words (or several shorter stories adding up to no more than 300 words). Tell the story or stories at a Scout gathering or campfire.
  - f. Write or tell about eight things adopted by others from American Indians.
  - g. Learn 25 Indian place names. Tell their origins and meanings.
  - h. Name five well-known American Indian leaders, either from the past or people of today. Give their tribes or nations. Describe what they did or do now that makes them notable.
  - i. Attend a contemporary American Indian gathering. Discuss with your counselor what you learned and observed. Include in your discussion any singing, dancing, drumming, and the various men's and women's dance styles you saw.

# Indian Lore Resources

## Scouting Literature

*Boy Scout Journal*; *North American Indian*; *American Cultures*, *American Heritage*, *Archaeology*, *Archery*, *Architecture*, *Basketry*, *Canoeing*, *Citizenship in the Nation*, *Environmental Science*, *Leatherwork*, *Metalwork*, *Pottery*, *Sculpture*, *Textile*, *Wilderness Survival*, and *Wood Carving* merit badge pamphlets

“The First Americans,” an eight-part series. *Boys’ Life* magazine. May–December 1993.

For more information about Scouting-related resources, visit (with your parent’s permission) the BSA’s retail website at <http://www.scoutstuff.org>.

## Books

- Aaseng, Nathan. *Navajo Code Talkers*. Walker, 2002.
- Ames, Kenneth M., and Herbert D. Maschner. *Peoples of the Northwest Coast: Their Archaeology and Prehistory*. Thames & Hudson, 2000.
- Bernstein, Bruce. *The Language of Native American Baskets: From the Weavers’ View*. Smithsonian National Museum of the American Indian, 2003.
- Bonar, Eulalie H. *Woven by the Grandmothers: Nineteenth-Century Navajo Textiles from the National Museum of the American Indian*. Smithsonian Institution Press, 1996.
- Bruchac, James, and Joseph Bruchac. *Native American Games and Stories*. Fulcrum, 2000.
- Childs, Craig. *House of Rain: Tracking a Vanished Civilization Across the American Southwest*. Little, Brown and Company, 2007.
- Curtis, Edward S, Joseph Horse Capture, et al. *Sacred Legacy: Edward S. Curtis and the North American Indian*. Barnes & Noble Books, 2005.
- Divina, Fernando, and Marlene Divina. *Foods of the Americas: Native Recipes and Traditions*. Ten Speed Press, 2004.
- Grant, Bruce. *Concise Encyclopedia of the American Indian*. Random House, 2000.

- Heth, Charlotte, ed. *Native American Dance: Ceremonies and Social Traditions*. Fulcrum, 1993.
- Horse Capture, George P., and Emil Her Many Horses, eds. *A Song for the Horse Nation: Horses in Native American Cultures*. Fulcrum, 2006.
- Johansen, Bruce E. *The Native Peoples of North America*. Greenwood, 2005.
- Johansen, Bruce E., and Barry M. Pritzker, eds. *Encyclopedia of American Indian History*. ABC-CLIO, 2007.
- Johansen, Bruce Elliott, and Donald A. Grinde. *The Encyclopedia of Native American Biography: Six Hundred Life Stories of Important People, From Powhatan to Wilma Mankiller*. Da Capo Press, 1998.
- Josephy Jr., Alvin M. *Lewis and Clark Through Indian Eyes*. Knopf, 2006.
- Lenz, Mary Jane, and Clara Sue Kidwell. *Small Spirits: Native American Dolls*. University of Washington Press, 2004.
- Marshall III, Joseph M. *Journey of Crazy Horse: A Lakota History*. Viking Penguin, 2005.
- McMaster, Gerald, and Clifford E. Trafzer, eds. *Native Universe: Voices of Indian America*. National Geographic Society, 2004.
- Olsen, Madeline. *Native American Sign Language*. Troll Communications, 2003.
- Pritzker, Barry M. *A Native American Encyclopedia: History, Culture, and Peoples*. Oxford University Press, 2000.
- Simpson, Judith. *Native Americans*. Barnes & Noble Books, 2003.
- Stewart, Holly. *Stories of the People: Native American Voices*. Universe Publishing, 1997.
- Terry, Michael Bad Hand. *Daily Life in a Plains Indian Village, 1868*. Houghton Mifflin, 1999.
- Thomas, David Hurst. *Exploring Ancient Native America*. Routledge, 1999.
- . *Exploring Native North America (Places in Time)*. Oxford University Press, 2000.
- Waldman, Carl. *Encyclopedia of Native American Tribes*. Facts On File, 2006.

### CDs and DVDs

- Creation's Journey: Native American Music*. CD. National Museum of the American Indian and Smithsonian/Folkways, 1994.
- 500 Nations: A Musical Journey*. DVDs (multidisc set). Warner Home Video, 2004.
- Legacy: Native American Photogravures & Music*. DVD. DVD International, 2003.
- Pow Wow Trail, Episode 1: The Drum*. DVD. Arbor Records Ltd., 2004.

*Pow Wow Trail, Episode 2: The Songs.*  
DVD. Arbor Records Ltd., 2004.

*Pow Wow Trail, Episode 3: The Dances.*  
DVD. Arbor Records Ltd., 2005.

*Pow Wow Trail, Episode 4: The  
Grand Entry.* DVD. Arbor  
Records Ltd., 2006.

*Pow Wow Trail, Episode 5: Grass Dance  
and Men's Traditional.* DVD.  
Arbor Records Ltd., 2006.

*Pow Wow Trail, Episode 6: The  
Fancy Dance.* DVD. Arbor  
Records Ltd., 2006.

*Sacagawea: Heroine of the Lewis and  
Clark Journey.* DVD. Questar, 2003.

*Tales of Wonder: Traditional Native  
American Stories for Children.*  
DVDs (two-volume set). Rich  
Heape Films, 2004.

*Wood That Sings: Indian Fiddle Music  
of the Americas.* CD. National  
Museum of the American Indian and  
Smithsonian/Folkways, 1997.

## **Organizations and Websites**

### **American Indian Heritage Foundation**

P.O. Box 6301

Falls Church, VA 22040

Website: <http://www.indians.org>

This organization provides relief services to Native Americans throughout the nation and fosters an understanding relationship between Native and non-native peoples. The AIHF also coordinates scholarship programs for American Indian youth.

### **American Museum of Natural History**

Central Park West at 79th Street

New York, NY 10024-5192

Telephone: 212-769-5100

Website: <http://www.amnh.org>

One of the most famous museums in the world, the American Museum of Natural History has a series of exhibition halls exploring traditional cultures. Since its founding in 1869, the museum's mission has been to discover, interpret, and make available information about human cultures, the natural world, and the universe.

### **Crazy Crow Trading Post**

Toll-free telephone: 800-786-6210

Website: <http://www.crazycrow.com>

### **Heard Museum**

2301 N. Central Ave.

Phoenix, AZ 85004-1323

Telephone: 602-252-8848

Website: <http://www.heard.org>

This world-renowned museum educates the public "about the heritage and the living cultures and arts of Native peoples, with an emphasis on the peoples of the Southwest."

### **National Congress of American Indians**

1301 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 200  
Washington, DC 20036  
Telephone: 202-466-7767  
Website: <http://www.ncai.org>

This organization, founded in 1944, seeks “to preserve rights under Indian treaties or agreements with the United States, and to promote the common welfare of the American Indians and Alaska Natives.” The NCAI includes 250 member tribes from throughout the United States; they are listed on the organization’s website under “Tribal Directory.”

### **National Museum of the American Indian**

Website: <http://www.nmai.si.edu>

The NMAI is a museum of the Smithsonian Institution and the “first national museum dedicated to the preservation, study, and exhibition” of American Indian culture. Its extensive collections (housed in three different facilities) explore the life, languages, literature, history, and arts of indigenous Americans, including tribes of the United States, Canada, Middle and South America, and the Caribbean.

### **NativeCulture.com**

Website: <http://www.nativeculture.com>

This website offers a variety of links to American Indian resources—current events and news, tribal sites, education, games, and more. It also is home to “Native American Sites” by Lisa Mitten, a page recommended by the Discovery Channel for its thorough coverage of American Indian culture and resources.

### **NativeTech**

Website: <http://www.nativetech.org>  
NativeTech features American Indian technology and craft resources, with a special focus on Eastern Woodlands beadwork, weaving, stonework, pottery, and other crafts. The site also offers Native poetry, recipes, and educational games.

### **NativeWeb**

Website: <http://www.nativeweb.org>

This nonprofit, international website provides resources to people of indigenous cultures around the world, including Native Americans. It includes links to everything from art to businesses and products and also hosts *Wotanin Wowapi*, North America’s oldest American Indian weekly newspaper.

### **Paul’s Supplies**

Telephone: 303-948-2767

Website: <http://www.paulssupplies.com>

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