MERIT BADGE WORKSHEET

Wildland Fire Management

REQUIREMENTS REVISED 2026

Worksheet updated Aug 2026 | Every merit badge worksheet: **www.meritbadgeworksheets.com**

Wildland Fire Management explores foundational principles, technical knowledge, safety precautions, and practical field applications.

SCOUT'S NAME

UNIT

COUNSELOR

COUNSELOR PHONE / EMAIL

DATE STARTED

DATE COMPLETED

HOW TO USE THIS WORKSHEET

This sheet is a place to gather your notes and keep track of what you have finished — it is not the merit badge itself. Read the Wildland Fire Management pamphlet, do the work, and bring this with you when you meet your counselor.

Where a requirement says *discuss*, *explain*, *show*, or *demonstrate*, you still have to do that in person. Notes here are a reminder of what you want to say, not a replacement for saying it.

Using this worksheet is optional. No counselor may require it, and no one may add to or subtract from the official requirements.

Scouting America last revised the Wildland Fire Management requirements in 2026 — that is the badge, not the sheet. This sheet was checked against scouting.org in Aug 2026, so it carries whatever requirements were published then.

PROGRESS AT A GLANCE

	REQUIREMENT	DONE	DATE	COUNSELOR
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4	Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation	☐		
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1 HISTORY OF WILDLAND FIRE

DATE | COUNSELOR

History of Wildland Fire. Research and discuss with your counselor the history of wildland fire, its suppression, prevention, and management in the United States.

NOTES AND COUNSELOR DISCUSSION

2 HARMS OF WILDFIRE

DATE | COUNSELOR

Harms of Wildfire. Research the harm caused by wildfire in the United States, including annual acres burned for the past three years. Discuss with your counselor. Include the negative impacts that wildfire has on the following:

(a) Commercial forest products

NOTES AND COUNSELOR DISCUSSION

(b) Fish and wildlife habitat

NOTES AND COUNSELOR DISCUSSION

(c) Soil and water

NOTES AND COUNSELOR DISCUSSION

(d) Recreation and public use

NOTES AND COUNSELOR DISCUSSION

(e) Homes, communities, and human resources

NOTES AND COUNSELOR DISCUSSION

(f) Air quality and public health

NOTES AND COUNSELOR DISCUSSION

3 FIRE AS A MANAGEMENT TOOL

DATE COUNSELOR

Fire as a Management Tool. Discuss with your counselor how prescribed fire is used to accomplish the following:

(a) Fuel reduction

NOTES AND COUNSELOR DISCUSSION

(b) Fish and wildlife habitat enhancement

NOTES AND COUNSELOR DISCUSSION

(c) Ecosystem restoration

NOTES AND COUNSELOR DISCUSSION

(d) Forest regeneration

NOTES AND COUNSELOR DISCUSSION

(e) Insect and disease control

NOTES AND COUNSELOR DISCUSSION

4 WILDFIRE PREVENTION AND MITIGATION

DATE COUNSELOR

Wildfire Prevention and Mitigation. Discuss the following with your counselor:

(a) Wildfire Prevention:

(1) The main causes of wildfire in the United States

(2) How you can prevent human caused wildfires in your community and on outings with your unit.

NOTES AND COUNSELOR DISCUSSION

(b) Wildfire Mitigation:

(1) Wildland-Urban Interface

(2) Defensible space and how homes and communities in the wildland-urban interface can be protected from wildfire

NOTES AND COUNSELOR DISCUSSION

5 FIRE BEHAVIOR

DATE COUNSELOR

Fire Behavior. Do the following:

(a) Discuss with your counselor how the fire environment affects wildland fire behavior. Include examples of the influences of weather, topography, and fuel.

NOTES AND COUNSELOR DISCUSSION

(b) Explain how a wildfire can be suppressed by removing heat, fuel, or oxygen.

NOTES AND COUNSELOR DISCUSSION

(c) Draw a diagram to illustrate the parts of a wildfire.

NOTES AND COUNSELOR DISCUSSION

6 WILDLAND FIREFIGHTER SAFETY

DATE COUNSELOR

Wildland Firefighter Safety. Do the following:

(a) Discuss with your counselor the personal protective equipment used by wildland firefighters and its use.

NOTES AND COUNSELOR DISCUSSION

(b) Discuss the following with your counselor, including why each is an important consideration for maintaining personal safety and situational awareness during wildland fire suppression activities:

- **(1)** 10 Standard Firefighting Orders
- **(2)** 18 Watch Out Situations
- **(3)** Lookouts, Communication, Escape Routes, and Safety Zones (LCES)

NOTES AND COUNSELOR DISCUSSION

7 WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION TACTICS

DATE COUNSELOR

Wildfire Suppression Tactics. Do the following:

(a) Alone or with a small team, using the diagram you created in Requirement 5(c) or a map of a wildfire, and tokens to represent firefighting resources, demonstrate the following wildland fire suppression tactics. Explain under which conditions each tactic would be used:

- **(1)** Direct attack
- **(2)** Indirect attack
- **(3)** Minimum impact suppression tactics
- **(4)** Use of hand crews, machinery, and aircraft
- **(5)** Mop-up
- **(6)** Repair and restoration

NOTES AND COUNSELOR DISCUSSION

(b) Draw a diagram of the Incident Command System. Alone or with your team, explain the responsibilities of the Command and General Staff positions on a wildfire incident.

NOTES AND COUNSELOR DISCUSSION

8 WILDFIRE SUPPRESSION TOOLS

DATE COUNSELOR

Wildfire Suppression Tools. Do the following:

(a) Demonstrate the use of three hand tools unique to wildland fire suppression. Use one of these tools to demonstrate how to construct a fireline.

NOTES AND COUNSELOR DISCUSSION

(b) Discuss seven other tools, equipment, or apparatus that are unique to wildland fire suppression and explain how these resources are used.

NOTES AND COUNSELOR DISCUSSION

9 TAKING ACTION

DATE | COUNSELOR

Taking Action. Do ONE of the following:

(a) Develop a fire readiness plan for a wildland area with which you are familiar. The plan should include a map showing available resources, water supplies, natural and manmade barriers, and access. The plan should discuss fuel loads, available fire apparatus, structure protection needs, values at risk, medical and evacuation considerations and potential fire suppression tactics.

(b) Visit with a state or federal forestry official or your local fire warden. Discuss the causes of and types of wildland fire that occur in your area. Discuss the prime fire season(s) in your area. Identify the agency responsible for wildland fire suppression in your area. Discuss what you learned with your counselor.

(c) Conduct a Firewise assessment of a home or a building in the wildland-urban interface, which could include a Scout camp building or facility. Identify potential risks and fire hazards. With your counselor's approval, complete a project to reduce the wildfire risk and increase the preparedness of the building. Write a brief report about what you did and learned from the assessment and project.

(d) Meet with a Fire Prevention Specialist or a local fire official to learn about fire prevention efforts in your community. From what you learned, prepare a fire prevention message (skit, video, or billboard concept) and share with your counselor and troop (or other group approved by your counselor).

(e) Meet with a meteorologist or someone familiar with fire weather and discuss the fire weather concerns and typical fire seasons that exist in your area. Discuss the conditions that lead to a Fire Weather Watch or a Red Flag Warning. Discuss what you learned with your counselor.

OPTION CHOSEN

SUMMARY OF PROJECT, REPORT, OR FINDINGS FOR CHOSEN OPTION

10 APPLY YOUR LEARNING TO A REAL EVENT

DATE | COUNSELOR

Apply Your Learning to a Real Event. Research an historic catastrophic wildland fire incident that occurred in the United States. Discuss with your counselor and/or your troop or a group approved by your counselor the conditions that led to the incident, how the incident was managed, and how the incident could have been prevented. Explain what lessons were learned and how this incident affected future fire suppression policy or suppression tactics.

NOTES AND COUNSELOR DISCUSSION

11 CAREERS IN WILDLAND FIRE MANAGEMENT

DATE _____ COUNSELOR _____

Careers in Wildland Fire Management. Explore careers related to this merit badge. Research one career to learn about the training and education needed, costs, job prospects, salary, job duties, and career advancement. Your research methods may include-with your parent or guardian's permission-an internet or library search, an interview with a professional in the field, or a visit to a location where people in this career work. Discuss with your counselor both your findings and what about this profession might make it an interesting career.

NOTES AND COUNSELOR DISCUSSION

ABOUT THIS WORKSHEET

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