

2024 Northern Lights District Merit Badge Academy

as of November 15, 2024 (changes will be added as received)

Recommended Pre-work

Citizenship In Society

- *AM Counselor: Kathy Krasny*
- *PM Counselor: Norra Sachel*
 - 1. Before beginning work on other requirements for this merit badge:
 - 1a. Research the following terms, and then explain to your merit badge counselor how you feel they relate to the Scout Oath and Scout Law:
 - Identities, Diversity, Equity, Equality, Inclusion, Discrimination, Ethical, Leadership, Upstander

Citizenship in the Community

- *AM Counselor: Jonathan Stevens*
- *PM Counselor: Jonathan Stevens*
 - 4. Choose an issue that is important to the citizens of your community; then do the following:
 - 4a. Find out which branch of local government is responsible for this issue.
 - 4b. With your counselor's and a parent's approval, interview one person from the branch of government you identified in requirement 4a. Ask what is being done about this issue and how young people can help.
 - 7a. Identify three charitable organizations outside of Scouting that interest you and bring people in your community together to work for the good of your community.
 - 7b. Pick ONE of the organizations you chose for requirement 7a. Using a variety of resources (including newspapers, fliers and other literature, the Internet, volunteers, and employees of the organization), find out more about this organization.
 - 7c. With your counselor's and your parent's approval, contact the organization you chose for requirement 7b, and find out what young people can do to help. While working on this merit badge, volunteer at least eight hours of your time for the organization. After your volunteer experience is over, discuss what you have learned with your counselor.

Citizenship in the Nation

- *AM Counselor: Norra Sachel*
- *PM Counselor: Bartlett Durand*
 - 5. Watch the national evening news for five days in a row or read the main stories in a national media organization (e.g., a newspaper or news website) for five days in a row. Discuss the national issues that you learned about with your counselor. Choose one issue and explain how it affects you, your family, and community.
 - 6. With your counselor's approval, choose a speech of national historical importance. Explain:
 - 6a. Who the author was.
 - 6b. What the historical context was.
 - 6c. What difficulties the nation faced that the author wished to discuss.
 - 6d. What the author said.

- 6e. Why the speech is important to the nation's history.
- 6f. Choose a sentence or two from the speech that has significant meaning to you, and tell your counselor why.
- One of the following: 7a or 7b or 7c:
 - 7a. Visit a place that is listed as a National Historic Landmark or that is on the National Register of Historic Places. Tell your counselor what you learned about the landmark or site and what you found interesting about it.
 - 7b. Tour your state capitol building or the U.S. Capitol. Tell your counselor what you learned about the capitol, its function, and the history.
 - 7c. Tour a federal facility. Explain to your counselor what you saw there and what you learned about its function in the local community and how it serves this nation.
- 8. Name your representatives in the United States Congress. Write a letter to your representative in Congress explaining your views on a national issue. Show your letter, along with any response you receive, to your counselor.

Citizenship in the World

- *AM Counselor: Mike Fahey*
- *PM Counselor: Mike Fahey*
 - 3a. Pick a current world event. In relation to this current event, discuss with your counselor how a country's national interest and its relationship with other countries might affect areas such as its security, its economy, its values, and the health of its citizens.
 - 3b. Select a foreign country and discuss with your counselor how its geography, natural resources, and climate influence its economy and its global partnerships with other countries.
 - [Note: Scouts will present their findings with the entire group in the form of a short (five minutes for each question) oral presentation. Scouts should also be prepared to identify their country on a map of the world.]
 - 7. Do TWO of the following (with your parent or guardian's permission) and share with your counselor what you have learned:
 - 7a. Visit the web site of the U.S. State Department. Learn more about an issue you find interesting that is discussed on this web site.
 - 7b. Visit the web site of an international news organization or foreign government, OR examine a foreign newspaper available at your local library, bookstore, or newsstand. Find a news story about a human right realized in the United States that is not recognized in another country.
 - 7c. Visit with a student or Scout from another country and discuss the typical values, holidays, ethnic foods, and traditions practiced or enjoyed there.
 - 7d. Attend a world Scout jamboree.
 - 7e. Participate in or attend an international event in your area, such as an ethnic festival, concert, or play.
 - [Note: Scouts should be prepared to share their learnings with the full group.]

Communication

- *Full day Counselor: Dan Burhans*
 - 2a or 2b. Scouts can choose either of the options and should prepare and be ready to discuss with the counselor.
 - 2a. Think of a creative way to describe yourself using, for example, a collage, short story or autobiography, drawing or series of photographs, or a song or skit. Using the aid you created, make a presentation to your counselor about yourself.

- 2b. Choose a concept, product, or service in which you have great confidence. Build a sales plan based on its good points. Try to persuade the counselor to agree with, use, or buy your concept, product or service. After your sales talk, discuss with your counselor how persuasive you were.
- 3. Write a five-minute speech. Give it at a meeting of a group. [Note: Scouts should prepare their speech in advance and be prepared to present it at the Merit Badge Academy.]
- 4: Interview someone you know fairly well, like, or respect because of his or her position, talent, career, or life experiences. Listen actively to learn as much as you can about the person. Then prepare and deliver to your counselor an introduction of the person as though this person were to be a guest speaker, and include reasons why the audience would want to hear this person speak. Show how you would call to invite this person to speak. [Note: Scouts should complete the interview and be prepared to present this at the Merit Badge Academy.]
- 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. [Note: Scouts should bring a meeting agenda to the Merit Badge Academy.]
- 6. With your counselor's approval, develop a plan to teach a skill or inform someone about something. Prepare teaching aids for your plan. Carry out your plan. With your counselor, determine whether the person has learned what you intended. [Note: Scouts should be prepared to teach/present their skill/topic at the Merit Badge Academy. Scouts should bring any aids/resources needed to present their topic.]
- 7a **or** 7b **or** 7c. Scouts can choose any of the three options and should be prepared to present/discuss with the counselor.
 - 7a: Write to the editor of a magazine or your local newspaper to express your opinion or share information on any subject you choose. Send your message by fax, email, or regular mail.
 - 7b: Create a web page or blog of special interest to you (for instance, your troop or crew, a hobby, or a sport). Include at least three articles or entries and one photograph or illustration, and one link to some other web page or blog that would be helpful to someone who visits the web page or blog you have created. It is not necessary to post your web page or blog to the Internet, but if you decide to do so, you must first share it with your parents and counselor and get their permission.
 - 7c: Use desktop publishing to produce a newsletter, brochure, flier, or other printed material for your troop or crew, class at school, or other group. Include at least one article and one photograph or illustration.
- 8. Plan a troop or crew court of honor, campfire program, or an interfaith worship service. Have the patrol leaders' council approve it, then write the script and prepare the program. Serve as master of ceremonies. [Note: Scouts should bring their agenda/script signed by their Scoutmaster.]
- 9. Find out about three career opportunities in communication. Pick one and find out the education, training, and experience required for this profession. Discuss this with your counselor, and explain why this profession might interest you. [Note: Scouts should research the career opportunities and be prepared to discuss the education, training, and experience needed for the chosen profession.]

Emergency Preparedness

- *Full day Counselor: Paul Hughes*
 - 1. Earn the First Aid merit badge. [Note: Proof will need to be provided.]
 - 2b. Using a chart, graph, spreadsheet, or another method approved by your counselor, demonstrate your understanding of each aspect of emergency preparedness listed in requirement

2a (prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery) for 10 emergency situations from the list below. **You must use the first five situations listed below in boldface**, plus any other five of your choice. Discuss your findings with your counselor.

- (1) **Home kitchen fire**
 - (2) **Home basement/storage room/garage fire**
 - (3) **Explosion in the home**
 - (4) **Automobile crash**
 - (5) **Food-borne disease (food poisoning)**
 - (6) Fire or explosion in a public place
 - (7) Vehicle stalled in the desert
 - (8) Vehicle trapped in a blizzard
 - (9) Earthquake or tsunami
 - (10) Mountain/backcountry accident
 - (11) Boating or water accident
 - (12) Gas leak in a home or a building
 - (13) Tornado or hurricane
 - (14) Major flooding or a flash flood
 - (15) Toxic chemical spills and releases
 - (16) Nuclear power plant emergency
 - (17) Avalanche (snowslide or rockslide)
 - (18) Violence in a public place
- 2c. Meet with and teach your family how to get or build a kit, make a plan, and be informed for the situations on the chart you created for requirement 2b. Complete a family plan. Then meet with your counselor and report on your family meeting, discuss their responses, and share your family plan.
 - 7b. Prepare a written plan for mobilizing your troop when needed to do emergency service. If there is already a plan, explain it. Tell your part in making it work.
 - 9. Do **ONE** of the following:
 - (a) Using a safety checklist approved by your counselor, inspect your home for potential hazards. Explain the hazards you find and how they can be corrected.
 - (b) Review or develop a plan of escape for your family in case of fire in your home.
 - (c) Develop an accident prevention program for five family activities outside the home (such as taking a picnic or seeing a movie) that includes an analysis of possible hazards, a proposed plan to correct those hazards, and the reasons for the corrections you propose.

First Aid

- *Full day Counselor: Cody Butcher*
 - 1. Demonstrate to your counselor that you have current knowledge of all first-aid requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class ranks.
 - [Note: These will be covered in class; however, the counselor cannot sign-off on scout's rank advancements.]
 - [Note: Scouts who have completed these will need to provide proof from their Scoutmaster.]
 - 5a. Prepare a first-aid kit for your home. Display and discuss its contents with your counselor.
 - [Note: Scouts should bring this kit with them to the session or bring a photograph of the kit and items it contains.]

Personal Fitness

- *AM Counselor: Bobby Gingerich*

- *PM Counselor: Bobby Gingerich*
 - 6b. Keep track of what you eat and drink for three days. Identify three healthy eating goals you want to work on.
 - 9. Find out about three career opportunities in personal fitness. Pick one and find out the education, training, and experience required for this profession. Discuss what you learned with your counselor, and explain why this profession might interest you.
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Personal Management

- *AM Counselor: Steven Schmitt*
- *PM Counselor: Steven Schmitt*
 - 1a. Choose an item that your family might want to purchase that is considered a major expense.
 - 1b. Write a plan that tells how your family would save money for the purchase identified in requirement 1a.
 - (2). Discuss the plan with your family.
 - (3). Discuss how other family needs must be considered in this plan.
 - 1c. Develop a written shopping strategy for the purchase identified in requirement 1a.
 - (1). Determine the quality of the item or service (using consumer publications or rating systems).
 - (2). Comparison shop for the item. Find out where you can buy the item for the best price. (Provide prices from at least two different price sources.) Call around; study ads. Look for a sale or discount coupon. Consider alternatives. Can you buy the item used? Should you wait for a sale?
 - 2a. Prepare a budget reflecting your expected income (allowance, gifts, wages), expenses, and savings for a period of 13 consecutive weeks.
 - 2b. Compare expected income with expected expenses.
 - (1) If expenses exceed budget income, determine steps to balance your budget.
 - (2) If income exceeds budget expenses, state how you would use the excess money (new goal, savings).
 - 2c. Track and record your actual income, expenses, and savings for 13 consecutive weeks (the same 13-week period for which you budgeted). When complete, present the records showing the results to your merit badge counselor.
 - 8a. Write a "to do" list of tasks or activities, such as homework assignments, chores, and personal projects, that must be done in the coming week. List these in order of importance to you.
 - 8b. Make a seven-day calendar or schedule. Put in your set activities, such as school classes, sports practices or games, jobs or chores, and/or Scout or place of worship or club meetings, then plan when you will do all the tasks from your "to do" list between your set activities.
 - 8c. Follow the one-week schedule you planned. Keep a daily diary or journal during each of the seven days of this week's activities, writing down when you completed each of the tasks on your "to do" list compared to when you scheduled them.

Sustainability

- *AM Counselor: Laura Harm*
- *PM Counselor: Buss Price*
 - 6c. Research the impact waste has on the environment (land, water, air). Find out what the trash vortex is and how it was formed. Explain the number system for plastic recyclables and which plastics are more commonly recycled. Identify the average lifespan of one electronic device in your household, and whether it can be recycled in whole or part.

- 8a. On a camp out or other outdoor Scouting activity that you attend, make notes on the sustainability practices you and your fellow Scouts practice. Observe transportation, forestry, soil conservation, water resources, habitat, buildings, campsites, and sanitation. Share what you observed and learned with your counselor.
 - Come prepared to DISCUSS your observations and SHOW your notes.
- 8c. Identify 5 behavioral changes that you and your family can make to improve the sustainability of your household. Share and discuss each with your counselor.
 - Discuss 5 behaviors with your family and be prepared to DISCUSS during the class.

Automotive Maintenance

- *AM Counselor: Rick Outhouse*
- *PM Counselor: Rick Outhouse*
 - 12. Find out about three career opportunities in the automotive industry. Pick one and find out the education, training, and experience required for this profession. Discuss this with your counselor, and explain why this profession might interest you.

Disabilities Awareness

- *AM Counselor: Jeanne Braun*
- *PM Counselor: Jeanne Braun*

Electricity

- *AM Counselor: Matt Rung*
- *PM Counselor: Matt Rung*
 - Purchase and bring a simple circuit kit similar to the following to the Merit Badge Academy: [Simple Circuit Kit from Amazon](#)

Electronics

- *AM Counselor: Morgan Lowery*
- *PM Counselor: Morgan Lowery*

Engineering

- *AM Counselor: Buss Price*
- *PM Counselor: Mark Miller*
 - 1. Select a manufactured item in your home (such as a toy or an appliance) and, under adult supervision and with the approval of your counselor, investigate how and why it works as it does. Find out what sort of engineering activities were needed to create it. Discuss with your counselor what you learned and how you got the information.
 - Come prepared to discuss with the group what toy or appliance you investigated.
 - 2. Select an engineering achievement that has had a major impact on society. Using resources such as the internet (with your parent or guardian's permission), books, and magazines, find out about the engineers who made this engineering feat possible, the special obstacles they had to overcome, and how this achievement has influenced the world today. Tell your counselor what you learned.
 - Come prepared to discuss with the group the achievement you studied.

Law

- *AM Counselor: Bartlett Durand*
- *PM Counselor: None*

Leatherwork

- *AM Counselor: Ron Last*
- *PM Counselor: None*
 - No prerequisites for this badge/session.

Leather craft (no merit badge/craft only)

- *AM Counselor: None*
- *PM Counselor: Ron Last*
 - No prerequisites for this craft session.

Music

- *AM Counselor: Tim Wurgler*
- *PM Counselor: Tim Wurgler*
 - No prerequisites for this badge/session.

Radio

- *AM Counselor: Joe Dempich*
- *PM Counselor: Joe Dempich*

Surveying

- *AM Counselor: Jason Krueger*
- *PM Counselor: Jason Krueger*
 - **Note:** Part of this merit badge session will be held outdoors. Scouts should dress appropriately for the weather. Scouts should expect to spend approximately 1.5 hours outdoors.

Wood Carving

- *AM Counselor: Brian Coker*
- *PM Counselor: Brian Coker*
 - 2a: Earn the Totin' Chip recognition. [Note: Scouts will need to bring their Totin Chit to their session.]

Veterinary Medicine

- *AM Counselor: Matt Watrud*
- *PM Counselor: Matt Watrud*
 - 6. Do **ONE** of the following:
 - 6a. Visit a veterinary clinic, hospital, or veterinary referral teaching hospital that does work in one of the practices listed in requirement 1. Spend as much time as you can observing the veterinarians and their staff. Write a report on what you observed and learned at the facility. Share your report with your counselor.
 - 6b. Spend as much time as possible with a veterinarian who works in one of the fields listed in requirement 2. Learn what special training beyond veterinary medical school

may have been required for that position. Learn about any special or unusual activities required of this position. Write a report on what you have learned about this field of veterinary medicine. Include in your report how this field serves the needs of the general public. Share your report with your counselor.