



Emergency Preparedness

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.

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.

Merit Badge Counselors may not require the use of this or any similar workbooks.

No one may add or subtract from the official requirements found in Boy Scout Requirements (Pub. 33216 – SKU 621535).

The requirements were last issued or revised in 2016 • This workbook was updated in March 2016.

Scout's Name: _____

Unit: _____

Counselor's Name: _____

Counselor's Phone No.: _____

<http://www.USScouts.Org> • <http://www.MeritBadge.Org>

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. Earn the First Aid merit badge.
2. Do the following:
- a. Discuss with your counselor the aspects of emergency preparedness:

1. Prepare for emergency situations

2. Respond to emergency situations

3. Recover from emergency situations

4. Prevent emergency situations

4. Mitigate losses in emergency situations

Include in your discussion the kinds of questions that are important to ask yourself as you consider each of these.

- b. Make a chart that demonstrates your understanding of each of the aspects of emergency preparedness in requirement 2a (prepare, respond, recover, prevent, and mitigate) with regard to 10 of the situations listed below. You must use situations 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 below in boldface but you may choose any other five listed for a total of 10 situations. Discuss this chart with your counselor.

	Situation	Prepare	Respond	Recover	Prevent	Mitigate
☐	1. Home kitchen fire					
☐	2. Home basement / storage room / garage fire					
☐	3. Explosion in the home					
☐	4. Automobile accident					
☐	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					

	Situation	Prepare	Respond	Recover	Prevent	Mitigate
☐	9. Flash flooding in town or the country					
☐	10. Mountain/backcountry accident					
☐	11. Boating accident					
☐	12. Gas leak in a home or a building					
☐	13. Tornado or hurricane					
☐	14. Major flood					
☐	15. Toxic chemical spills and releases					
☐	16. Nuclear power plant emergency					
☐	17. Avalanche (snowslide or rockslide)					
☐	18. Violence in a public place					

- c. 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.

[illegible]

3. Show how you could safely save a person from the following:

- ☐ a. Touching a live household electric wire

- ☐ b. A structure filled with carbon monoxide

- ☐ c. Clothes on fire

- ☐ d. Drowning using nonswimming rescues (including accidents on ice)

4. Show three ways of attracting and communicating with rescue planes/aircraft.

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☐	
☐	

- ☐ 5. With another person, show a good way to move an injured person out of a remote and/or rugged area, conserving the energy of rescuers while ensuring the well-being and protection of the injured person.

6. Do the following:

- ☐ a. Describe the National Incident Management System (NIMS)/Incident Command System (ICS).

- b. Identify the local government or community agencies that normally handle and prepare for emergency services similar to those of the NIMS or ICS. Explain to your counselor ONE of the following:

1. How the NIMS/ICS can assist a Boy Scout troop when responding in a disaster

2. How a group of Scouts could volunteer to help in the event of these types of emergencies'

- c. Find out who is your community's emergency management director and learn what this person does to prepare for, respond to, recover from, prevent, and mitigate emergency situations in your community.

Discuss this information with your counselor and apply what you discover to the chart you created for requirement 2b.

☐ 7. Do the following:

- ☐ a. Take part in an emergency service project, either a real one or a practice drill, with a Scouting unit or a community agency.
- b. 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.

☐ 8. Do the following:

☐ a. Tell the things a group of Scouts should be prepared to do, the training they need, and the safety precautions they should take for the following emergency services:

1. Crowd and traffic control

Be prepared to do:

Training they need:

Safety Precautions:

2. Messenger service and communication

Be prepared to do:

Training they need:

Safety Precautions:

3. Collection and distribution services

Be prepared to do:

Training they need:

Safety Precautions:

4. Group feeding, shelter, and sanitation

Be prepared to do:

Training they need:

Safety Precautions:

- ☐ b. Prepare a personal emergency service pack for a mobilization call.

Contents	Needs and Uses

- ☐ Prepare a family emergency kit (suitcase or waterproof box) for use by your family in case an emergency evacuation is needed. Explain the needs and uses of the contents.

Contents	Needs and Uses

[illegible]

9. Do ONE of the following:
- ☐ a. Using a safety checklist approved by your counselor, inspect your home for potential hazards.
(See the Sample Home Safety Checklist at the end of this workbook.)

Explain the hazards you find and how they can be corrected.

[illegible]

- ☐ b. Review or develop a plan of escape for your family in case of fire in your home.

[illegible]

- ☐ 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..

Activity:	Possible Hazards:	Plan to correct:	Reasons for corrections:

Requirement resources can be found here:

http://www.meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Emergency_Preparedness#Requirement_resources

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 the Merit Badge pamphlet and your counselor for more information. Ask your parent or guardian before making any changes.

Stairways, Halls, and Outdoor Steps**N/A**

- ☐ 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**N/A**

- ☐ 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**N/A**

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| ☐ 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

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| ☐ 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**N/A**

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| ☐ 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**N/A**

- ☐ 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. ☐

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. ☐

General**N/A**

- ☐ 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. ☐

Important excerpts from the Guide To Advancement - 2015, No. 33088 (SKU-620573)

[1.0.0.0] — Introduction

The current edition of the *Guide to Advancement* is the official source for administering advancement in all Boy Scouts of America programs: Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, Varsity Scouting, Venturing, and Sea Scouts. It replaces any previous BSA advancement manuals and previous editions of the *Guide to Advancement*.

[Page 2, and 5.0.1.4] — Policy on Unauthorized Changes to Advancement Program

No council, committee, district, unit, or individual has the authority to add to, or subtract from, advancement requirements. There are limited exceptions relating only to youth members with special needs. For details see section 10, "Advancement for Members With Special Needs".

[Page 2] — The "Guide to Safe Scouting" Applies

Policies and procedures outlined in the *Guide to Safe Scouting*, No. 34416, apply to all BSA activities, including those related to advancement and Eagle Scout service projects.

[7.0.3.1] — The Buddy System and Certifying Completion

A youth member must not meet one-on-one with an adult. Sessions with counselors must take place where others can view the interaction, or the Scout must have a buddy: a friend, parent, guardian, brother, sister, or other relative—or better yet, another Scout working on the same badge—along with him attending the session. If merit badge counseling or instruction includes any Web-based interaction, it must be conducted in accordance with the BSA Social Media Guidelines (<http://www.scouting.org/Marketing/Resources/SocialMedia>). For example, always copy one or more authorized adults on email messages between counselors and Scouts.

When the Scout meets with the counselor, he should bring any required projects. If these cannot be transported, he should present evidence, such as photographs or adult verification. His unit leader, for example, might state that a satisfactory bridge or tower has been built for the Pioneering merit badge, or that meals were prepared for Cooking. If there are questions that requirements were met, a counselor may confirm with adults involved. Once satisfied, the counselor signs the blue card using the date upon which the Scout completed the requirements, or in the case of partials, initials the individual requirements passed.

Note that from time to time, it may be appropriate for a requirement that has been met for one badge to also count for another. See "Fulfilling More Than One Requirement With a Single Activity," 4.2.3.6.

[7.0.3.2] — Group Instruction

It is acceptable—and sometimes desirable—for merit badges to be taught in group settings. This often occurs at camp and merit badge midways, fairs, clinics, or similar events. Interactive group discussions can support learning. The method can also be attractive to "guest experts" assisting registered and approved counselors. Slide shows, skits, demonstrations, panels, and various other techniques can also be employed, but as any teacher can attest, not everyone will learn all the material.

There must be attention to each individual's projects and his fulfillment of *all* requirements. We must know that every Scout—actually and *personally*—completed them. If, for example, a requirement uses words like "show," "demonstrate," or "discuss," then every Scout must do that. It is unacceptable to award badges on the basis of sitting in classrooms *watching* demonstrations, or remaining silent during discussions.

It is sometimes reported that Scouts who have received merit badges through group instructional settings have not fulfilled all the requirements. To offer a quality merit badge program, council and district advancement committees should ensure the following are in place for all group instructional events.

- A culture is established for merit badge group instructional events that partial completions are acceptable expected results.
- A guide or information sheet is distributed in advance of events that promotes the acceptability of partials, explains how merit badges can be finished after events, lists merit badge prerequisites, and provides other helpful information that will establish realistic expectations for the number of merit badges that can be earned at an event.
- Merit badge counselors are known to be registered and approved.
- Any guest experts or guest speakers, or others assisting who are not registered and approved as merit badge counselors, do not accept the responsibilities of, or behave as, merit badge counselors, either at a group instructional event or at any other time. Their service is temporary, not ongoing.
- Counselors agree to sign off only requirements that Scouts have actually and personally completed.
- Counselors agree not to assume prerequisites have been completed without some level of evidence that the work has been done. Pictures and letters from other merit badge counselors or unit leaders are the best form of prerequisite documentation when the actual work done cannot be brought to the camp or site of the merit badge event.
- There is a mechanism for unit leaders or others to report concerns to a council advancement committee on summer camp merit badge programs, group instructional events, and any other merit badge counseling issues—especially in instances where it is believed BSA procedures are not followed. See "Reporting Merit Badge Counseling Concerns," 11.1.0.0.
- There must be attention to each individual's projects and his fulfillment of all requirements. We must know that every Scout—actually and personally—completed them.

It is permissible for guest speakers, guest experts, or others who are not merit badge counselors to assist in the counseling process. Those providing such assistance must be under the direction of a registered and approved counselor who is readily available onsite, and provides personal supervision to assure all applicable BSA policies and procedures—including those related to BSA Youth Protection—are in place and followed.

[7.0.3.3] — Partial Completions

A Scout need not pass all the requirements of one merit badge with the same counselor. It may be that due to timing or location issues, etc., he must meet with a different counselor to finish the badge. The Application for Merit Badge has a place to record what has been finished—a "partial." In the center section on the reverse of the blue card, the counselor initials for each requirement passed. In the case of a partial completion, the counselor does not retain his or her portion of the card. A subsequent counselor may choose not to accept partial work, but this should be rare. A Scout, if he believes he is being treated unfairly, may work with his unit leader to find another counselor. An example for the use of a signed partial would be to take it to camp as proof of prerequisites. Partial completions have no expiration except the Scout's 18th birthday. Units, districts, or councils shall not establish other expiration dates for partial merit badges.

[7.0.4.8] — Unofficial Worksheets and Learning Aids

Worksheets and other materials that may be of assistance in earning merit badges are available from a variety of places including unofficial sources on the Internet and even troop libraries. Use of these aids is permissible as long as the materials can be correlated with the current requirements that Scouts must fulfill. Completing "worksheets" may suffice where a requirement calls for something in writing, but this would not work for a requirement where the Scout must discuss, tell, show, or demonstrate, etc. Note that Scouts shall not be required to use these learning aids in order to complete a merit badge.