



Communication

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 637685).

The requirements were last issued or revised in 2014 • This workbook was updated in May 2017.

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. Do ONE of the following:

- a. For one day, keep a log in which you describe your communication activities. Keep track of the time and different ways you spend communicating, such as talking person-to-person, listening to teachers or the radio, watching television, using social media, reading books and other print media, and using any electronic communication device.

Date:

Time	Duration	Activity Type	Description

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Discuss with your counselor what your log reveals about the importance of communication in your life.

Think of ways to improve your communications skills.

- b. For three days, keep a journal of your listening experiences.

Dates:

Date/Time	Listening Experience

Identify one example of each of the following, and discuss with your counselor when you have listened to:

- 1. Obtain information

- 2. Be persuaded

- 3. Appreciate or enjoy something

- 4. Understand someone's feelings

- c. In a small-group setting, meet with other Scouts or with friends. Have them share personal stories about significant events in their lives that affected them in some way. Take note of how each Scout participates in the group discussion and how effectively he communicates his story.

Scout or friend:

Personal story:

Effectiveness:

Scout or friend:	
Personal story:	
Effectiveness:	

Scout or friend:	
Personal story:	
Effectiveness:	

Scout or friend:	
Personal story:	
Effectiveness:	

Scout or friend:	
Personal story:	
Effectiveness:	

Scout or friend:	
Personal story:	
Effectiveness:	

Report what you have learned to your counselor about the differences you observed in effective communication.

- d. List as many ways as you can think of to communicate with others (face-to-face, by telephone, letter, e-mail, text messages, and so on). For each type of communication, discuss with your counselor an instance when that method might not be appropriate or effective.

Way to Communicate	When that method might not be appropriate or effective.

2. Do ONE of the following:

a. 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.

b. 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.

4. Interview someone you know fairly well, like, or respect because of his or her position, talent, career, or life experiences.

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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.

- 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.

- 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.

7. Do ONE of the following:

- a. 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, e-mail, or regular mail.

- b. 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.

Articles:	
Image:	
Link:	

- c. Use desktop publishing to produce a newsletter, brochure, flier, or other printed material for your Scout troop, class at school, or other group. Include at least one article and one photograph or illustration.

Article:	

- Have the patrol leaders' council approve it, then write the script and prepare the program.

- Serve as master of ceremonies.

9. Find out about three career opportunities in the field of communication.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Pick one and explain how to prepare for such a career.

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Discuss with your counselor what education and training are required, and explain why this profession might interest you.

Education

Training

Why this profession might interest you.

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>.