

Trailhead District Merit Badge Forum 2003



Merit Badge Prerequisites

Prerequisites for ALL 28 Merit Badge Courses (THESE ARE MANDATORY)

- Buy & read the current Merit Badge book before 2/1/2003
- Bring to class on 2/1/2003:
 - Merit Badge book
 - Pen & Paper
 - Prerequisites listed below (if indicated)
- Wear FULL Class "A" (field) Scout Uniform
- Scouts may be asked to leave if they are not properly prepared
 - "A Scout is Prepared"

The following courses require that the following prerequisites be completed prior to class to be able to finish the Badge during the Forum:

Coin Collecting
Collections
Crime Prevention
Family Life

Medicine
Personal Management
Railroading
Weather

Coin Collecting: (Offered 2/1/2003 only)

1. Do these:
 - a. Collect a type set of U.S. coins of any year currently being minted or in circulation. Commemorative, proof, silver, rare, or expensive coins are not needed. Have at least one coin from each mint in your type set.
 - b. In your type set, point out and identify the mint mark (if any) on each coin. Tell when each mint first started making coins.
 - c. For each coin in your type set, point out the location on the initials (if any) of each coin's designer(s).
4. Do ONE of the following:
 - a. Make enlarged sketches of both sides of five different kinds of U.S. coins minted from 1792 through the present year. Make sketches of both sides of five different colonial or state coins minted before 1792. Show designs, dates, and lettering clearly.
 - b. Collect, classify, and mount 50 different coins of 10 different countries.
 - c. Collect a type set of U.S. coins minted during the 20th century (except commemorative, proof, gold, rare, or expensive coins).
 - d. Collect a set of some U.S. series of coins beginning with your year of birth (except for rare or expensive coins).
 - e. Collect, classify, describe, and mount 10 medals, tokens, or combination of both. Have three different size medals or tokens and three different metals or compositions in the collection.

Crime Prevention: (offered in a single Saturday)

2. Prepare a notebook of newspaper and other clippings that addresses crime and crime prevention efforts in your community. (Bring notebook to class.)
3. Do the following:
 - a. Talk to a store owner or manager about the impact of crime on the way the store is run and how crime affects prices. (Prepare a written report regarding this talk.)
 - b. Talk with a school teacher, principal, or school officer about the impact of crime in your school. (Prepare a written report regarding this talk.)
5. Do the following:
 - a. Inspect your neighborhood for opportunities that may lead to crime. Learn how to do a crime prevention survey. (Prepare a written report regarding this inspection.)
 - b. Using the checklist in this pamphlet, conduct a security survey of your home and discuss the results with your family. (Prepare a written report regarding the results of this survey & bring the survey to class.)
6. Teach your family or patrol members how to protect themselves from crime at home, at school, in your community, and while traveling. (Prepare a written report of what you taught while completing this requirement.)
7. Visit a jail or detention facility. Discuss your experience with your counselor. (Prepare a short written report regarding this visit.)

Collections: (offered in a single Saturday)

(Stamp & Coin Collecting are excluded from this merit badge)

1. Prepare a short written report or outline for your counselor, giving a detailed description of your collection, including a short history. (Bring this report to class.)
5. Do the following:
 - a. Discuss with your counselor at least 10 terms commonly used in your collection and be prepared to discuss the definition of each. (List these terms and their definitions and bring to class.)
 - b. Display to your counselor two different sets of your collection and a description of each area of the sets. (Note: if your collection is too large to transport and your counselor is unable to view your collection directly, photographs should be available to explain and display.)
 - c. Explain how your collection is valued by other collectors and display to your counselor any price guides that may be available. (Write a short report & bring a price guide if available.)
 - d. Explain how your collection is graded, including the categories mentioned above for value, physical defects, size and age. Show the various classifications used in your collection. (Write a short report with this information and bring to class.)
 - e. List the national, state, or local association responsive to your collection. (Write out these associations and bring to class.)

Family Life: (Both Saturdays)

3. Prepare a list of your regular home duties or chores (at least five) and do them for 90 days. Keep a record of how often you do each of them.

Medicine: (Offered 2/1/2003 only)

7. Do the following:
 - a. Visit a physician's office, ** preferably one who delivers "primary care." (This may be that of your counselor.) discuss the components of a medical history and physical examination (an official BSA health form may be used to guide this discussion), and become familiar with the instruments used.
(** If this cannot be arranged, demonstrate to your counselor that you understand the components of a medical history and physical, and discuss the instruments involved.)
 - b. Describe the characteristics of a good diagnostic test to screen for disease (e.g. routine blood pressure measurement). Explain briefly why diagnostic tests are not perfect.
10. Serve as a volunteer at a health-related event or facility in your community (e.g. Blood drive, "health fair", blood pressure screening, etc.) approved by your counselor.

Personal Management: (Both Saturdays)

2. Do the following:
 - a. Prepare a personal budget or spending plan for three months, including a "pay yourself first" savings plan. Keep track of everything you buy. Balance all income with expenses and savings at the end of each month.
 - b. Share your three month budget with your merit badge counselor. Explain how you determined discretionary income (income not spent to meet fixed expenses), how much you saved, and what you spent money on. Did you spend more or less than you budgeted?

Railroading: (Both Saturdays)

1. Do the of the following:
 - a. Name the scale and track gauge for four model railroad gauges. Show the correct way to clean and lubricate model train equipment. (Write a short report for this and bring to class 2/1/2003.)
 - b. Draw to scale, the layout of your own model railroad; or one that could be built in your home. Have point-to-point or loop with different routings. Include a turnaround, a terminal, or a yard and a siding. (Bring to class)
4. Explain six rules of safety to use aboard trains; on platforms; at crossings; and around bridges, yards, and tunnels. Explain the use and function of the "EOTD" or "FRED" now used in place of cabooses. (Write these out and bring to class)
5. Explain the use of a timetable by making a written plan for a trip by rail between two cities at least 500 miles apart. List the times of departure and of arrival at your destination, the number of the train, and the service you want. (Bring to class)

Weather: (offered in a single Saturday)

8. Do ONE of the following:
 - a. Make one of the following instruments: (bring this to class)
 - wind vane,
 - anemometer,
 - rain gauge,
 - hygrometer.

Keep a daily weather log for 1 week using information from this instrument as well as from other sources such as local radio and television stations or NOAA Weather Radio. The following information should be recorded at the same time every day: wind direction and speed, temperature, precipitation, and types of clouds. Be sure to make a note of any morning dew or frost. In the log, also list the weather forecasts from radio or television at the same time each day and show how the weather turned out. (Bring log to class.)
 - b. Visit a National Weather Service office or talk with a local radio or television weathercaster, private meteorologist, local agricultural Extension service office, or university meteorology instructor. Find out what type of weather is most dangerous or damaging to your community. Determine how severe weather and flood warnings reach the homes in your community. (Write a report about your visit and bring to class.)
9. Do ONE of the following: (Prepare outline of talk & bring to class.)
 - a. Give a talk of more than 5 minutes to your counselor explaining the camping safety rules in the event of lightning, flash floods, and tornadoes. Before your talk, show your outline to your counselor for approval.
 - b. Read several articles about acid rain and give a prepared talk of more than 5 minutes about the articles to your counselor. Before your talk, show your outline to your counselor for approval.

For a complete list of Merit Badge Requirements, visit these websites:

[US Scouting Service Project Merit Badge Website
http://usscouts.org/usscouts/mb/framesindex.html](http://usscouts.org/usscouts/mb/framesindex.html)

[MeritBadge.com Website
http://www.meritbadge.com](http://www.meritbadge.com)