



Search and Rescue

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

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

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.

No one may add or subtract from the official requirements found on Scouting.org.

The requirements were last issued or revised in 2020 • This workbook was updated in February 2024.

Scout's Name: _____ Unit: _____

Counselor's Name: _____ Phone No.: _____ Email: _____

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

- a. Explain to your counselor the hazards you are most likely to encounter while participating in search and rescue (SAR) activities, and what you should do to anticipate, help prevent, mitigate, and respond to these hazards..

Hazards:

What you should do :

Anticipate

Prevent

Mitigate

Respond

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- b. Discuss first aid and prevention for the types of injuries or illnesses that could occur while participating in SAR activities, including: snakebites, dehydration, shock, environmental emergencies such as hypothermia or heatstroke, blisters, and ankle and knee sprains.

Snakebites:

Dehydration:

Shock:

Hypothermia:

Heatstroke:

Blisters:

Ankle sprains:

Knee sprains:

c. The meaning of these terms:.

1. AFRCC (Air Force Rescue Coordination Center)

2. IAP (Incident Action Plan)

3. ICS (Incident Command System)

4. Evaluating search urgency

5. Establishing confinement

6. Scent item

7. Area air scent dog

8. Briefing and debriefing

4. Find out who in your area has authority for search and rescue and what their responsibilities are.

Who: _____

Responsibilities:

Discuss this with your counselor, and explain the official duties of a search and rescue team.

5. Working with your counselor, become familiar with the Incident Command System. You may use any combination of resource materials, such as printed or online.

Discuss with your counselor how the ICS compares with Scouting's patrol method.*

*Scouts who have already completed the original requirement 5 as published in the current Search and Rescue merit badge pamphlet need not redo this updated requirement in order to earn the badge.

Water SAR

A Note About Unauthorized and Restricted Activities

The BSA's Guide to Safe Scouting states under "Unauthorized and Restricted Activities" that flying in aircraft as part of a search and rescue mission is an unauthorized activity for youth members. For complete information, see <http://www.scouting.org/healthandsafety>.

7. Discuss the Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) system, latitude, and longitude.

UTM System:

Latitude:

Longitude:

Then do the following:

- a. Using a 1:24,000 scale USGS topographic map, show that you can identify a location of your choice using UTM coordinates..
- b. Using a 1:24,000 scale map, ask your counselor to give you a UTM coordinate on the map, then identify that location.
- c. Show that you can identify your current location using the UTM coordinates on your Global Positioning System unit and verify it on a 1:24,000 scale map..
- d. Determine a hypothetical place last seen, and point out an area on your map that could be used for containment using natural or human-made boundaries..

8. Choose a hypothetical scenario, either one presented in this merit badge pamphlet or one created by your counselor.

Scenario: _____

Then do the following

- a. Complete an incident objectives form for this scenario.

- b. Complete an Incident Action Plan (IAP) to address this scenario.

- c. Discuss with your counselor the behavior of a lost person and how that would impact your incident action plan (for example, the differences between searching for a young child versus a teen)...

