



# Fingerprinting

## 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 2022 • This workbook was updated in November 2023.

Scout's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit \_\_\_\_\_ Date Started \_\_\_\_\_

Counselor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit errors, omissions, comments or suggestions about this **workbook** to: [Workbooks@USScouts.Org](mailto:Workbooks@USScouts.Org)  
Comments or suggestions for changes to the **requirements** for the **merit badge** should be sent to: [Merit.Badge@Scouting.Org](mailto:Merit.Badge@Scouting.Org)

1. Give a short history of fingerprinting.


Tell the difference between civil and criminal identification.


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2. Explain the difference between the automated fingerprint identification systems (AFIS) now used by some law enforcement agencies and the biometric fingerprint systems used to control access to places like buildings, airports, and computer rooms.

AFIS:


Biometric:


3. Do the following:

a. Name the surfaces of the body where friction or papillary ridges are found.


b. Name the two basic principles supporting the science of fingerprints and give a brief explanation of each principle.

1.	
2.	

c. Explain what it takes to positively identify a person using fingerprints.


4. Take a clear set of prints using ONE of the following methods.

- a. Make both rolled and plain impressions. Make these on an 8-by-8-inch fingerprint identification card, available from your local police department or your counselor.  
(A sample *Fingerprint Card* is included on the next page of this workbook)
- b. Using clear adhesive tape, a pencil, and plain paper, record your own fingerprints or those of another person.

5. Show your merit badge counselor you can identify the three basic types of fingerprint patterns and their subcategories. Using your own hand, identify the types of patterns you see.

Basic Patterns & subcategories:

○ 1.	
○ 2.	
○ 3.	
Your hand:	

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>.

# FINGERPRINT CARD

LAST NAME		FIRST NAME			MIDDLE NAME			SR; JR; etc.	
DATE OF BIRTH	PLACE OF BIRTH	SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER	SEX	RACE	HGT.	WGT.	EYES	HAIR	
DATE	SIGNATURE OF PERSON FINGERPRINTED			RESIDENCE OF PERSON FINGERPRINTED					
DATE	SIGNATURE OF PERSON TAKING FINGERPRINTS			PRINTED NAME OF PERSON TAKING FINGERPRINTS					
1. RIGHT THUMB		2. RIGHT INDEX		3. RIGHT MIDDLE		4. RIGHT RING		5. RIGHT LITTLE	
6. LEFT THUMB		7. LEFT INDEX		8. LEFT MIDDLE		9. LEFT RING		10. LEFT LITTLE	
LEFT FOUR FINGERS TAKEN SIMULTANEOUSLY				L. THUMB	R THUMB	RIGHT FOUR FINGERS TAKEN SIMULTANEOUSLY			

**Notes:**

1. Based on FBI Criminal Justice Information Services Division Fingerprint Card: FD-258 Applicant Card.
2. You may be asked to use this or another card to take fingerprints. Please print on card stock paper.
3. Parent or Guardian - Consider keeping this fingerprint card in a safe place.