



# Law

## Merit Badge Workbook

This workbook can help you but you still need to read the merit badge pamphlet.

The work space provided for each requirement should be used by the Scout to make notes for discussing the item with his counselor, not for providing the full and complete answers. Each Scout must do each requirement.

No one may add or subtract from the official requirements found in **Boy Scout Requirements** (Pub. 33216 – SKU 34765).

The requirements were last issued or revised in 2003 • This workbook was updated in January 2013.

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](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. Define "law." \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Tell some of its sources. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Describe functions it serves. \_\_\_\_\_

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2. Discuss TWO of the following:

a. The Justinian Code, The Code of Hammurabi, and the Magna Carta.

b. The development of the jury system.

c. Two famous trials in history.

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3. Tell what civil law is; tell what criminal law is.

Civil law: \_\_\_\_\_

Criminal law: \_\_\_\_\_

Tell the main differences between them. \_\_\_\_\_

Give examples of each. \_\_\_\_\_

4. Ask five people (not more than one from your immediate family) about the role of law enforcement officers in our society. Discuss their answers with them. \_\_\_\_\_

Go to a law enforcement officer in your neighborhood and ask about his or her responsibilities and duties.

Report your findings. \_\_\_\_\_

5. Tell about several laws that were passed to protect the consumer and the seller. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Tell about several organizations that provide help to consumers and sellers. \_\_\_\_\_

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6. Do ONE of the following:

- a. Attend a session of a civil or criminal court. Write 250 words or more on what you saw.
- b. Plan and conduct a mock trial with your troop or school class. After the trial is over, discuss it with the group.

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7. Arrange a visit with a lawyer who works for a business, bank, title company, or government agency. Find out his or her duties and responsibilities. Report what you learned. \_\_\_\_\_

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8. Explain the requirements for becoming a lawyer in your state. \_\_\_\_\_

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Describe how judges are selected in your state. \_\_\_\_\_

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9. Make a list of 15 jobs which deal with some aspect of law or legal processes.

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|----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 9. _____  |
| 2. _____ | 10. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 12. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 13. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 14. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 15. _____ |
| 8. _____ |           |

Tell which you prefer. \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. Tell where people can go to obtain the help of a lawyer if they are unable to pay for one. \_\_\_\_\_

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Tell what you can do if you can afford a lawyer but do not know of any in your area. \_\_\_\_\_

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11. Discuss with your counselor the importance of TWO of the following areas of law that have recently emerged and are still developing:

- a. Environmental law
- b. Computers and the Internet
- c. Copyright and the Internet
- d. Space travel and satellites orbiting the earth

1. \_\_\_\_\_

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2. \_\_\_\_\_

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**Requirement resources can be found here:**  
[http://www.meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Law#Requirement\\_resources](http://www.meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Law#Requirement_resources)

## Important excerpts from the [‘Guide To Advancement’](#), No. 33088:

Effective January 1, 2012, the ‘Guide to Advancement’ (which replaced the publication ‘Advancement Committee Policies and Procedures’) is now the official Boy Scouts of America source on advancement policies and procedures.

- **[ Inside front cover, and 5.0.1.4 ] — 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 disabilities. For details see section 10, “Advancement for Members With Special Needs”.)
- **[ Inside front cover, and 7.0.1.1 ] — 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. [Note: Always reference the online version, which is updated quarterly.]
- **[ 7.0.3.1 ] — The Buddy System and Certifying Completion**  
Youth members must not meet one-on-one with adults. 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. 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 certification. 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.
- **[ 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 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. Because of the importance of individual attention in the merit badge plan, group instruction should be limited to those scenarios where the benefits are compelling.
- **[ 7.0.3.3 ] — Partial Completions**  
Scouts need not pass all requirements with one counselor. 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, he or she does not retain the counselor’s 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 Scoutmaster to find another counselor. An example for the use of a signed partial would be to take it to camp as proof of prerequisites. Partials have no expiration except the 18th birthday.