



Public Health

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 2015 • This workbook was updated in June 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. Explain what public health is.

Explain how Escherichia coli (E. coli), tetanus, AIDS, encephalitis, salmonellosis, and Lyme disease are contracted.

Escherichia coli (E. coli):	
Tetanus:	
AIDS:	

Workbook © Copyright 2017 - U.S. Scouting Service Project, Inc. - All Rights Reserved
Requirements © Copyright, Boy Scouts of America (Used with permission.)

This workbook may be reproduced and used locally by Scouts and Scouters for purposes consistent with the programs of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA), the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM) or other Scouting and Guiding Organizations. However it may NOT be used or reproduced for electronic redistribution or for commercial or other non-Scouting purposes without the express permission of the U. S. Scouting Service Project, Inc. (USSSP).

Encephalitis:

Salmonellosis:

Lyme disease:

Then, pick any four of the following diseases and explain how each one is contracted and possibly prevented: gonorrhea, West Nile virus, botulism, influenza, syphilis, hepatitis, emphysema, meningitis, herpes, lead poisoning.

	Disease	How Contracted and Prevented:				
1.		<table border="1"><tr><td> </td></tr><tr><td> </td></tr><tr><td> </td></tr><tr><td> </td></tr></table>				
2.		<table border="1"><tr><td> </td></tr><tr><td> </td></tr><tr><td> </td></tr><tr><td> </td></tr></table>				
3.		<table border="1"><tr><td> </td></tr><tr><td> </td></tr><tr><td> </td></tr><tr><td> </td></tr></table>				
4.		<table border="1"><tr><td> </td></tr><tr><td> </td></tr><tr><td> </td></tr><tr><td> </td></tr></table>				

Botulism:

Type or form:

Possible vectors:

Prevention or Spread:

Treatments:

Influenza:

Type or form:

Possible vectors:

Prevention or Spread:

Treatments:

Syphilis:

Type or form:

Possible vectors:

Prevention or Spread:

Treatments:

Hepatitis:

Type or form:

Possible vectors:

Prevention or Spread:

Treatments:

Emphysema:

Type or form:

Possible vectors:

Prevention or Spread:

Treatments:

Meningitis:

Type or form:

Possible vectors:

Prevention or Spread:

Treatments:

Herpes:

Type or form:

Possible vectors:

Prevention or Spread:

Treatments:

Lead Poisoning.

Type or form:

Possible vectors:

Prevention or Spread:

Treatments:

2. Do the following:

- a. Explain the meaning of immunization.
- b. Name five diseases against which a young child should be immunized and two diseases against which everyone should be reimmunized periodically.

Young child

1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

Adults

1.	
2.	

- c. Using the diseases you chose for requirement 1, discuss the diseases for which there is currently no treatment or immunization. If treatments or immunizations are available for the diseases you chose, discuss others on the list.

3. Discuss the importance of safe drinking water in terms of the spread of disease.

Then, demonstrate two ways for making water safe to drink that can be used while at camp. In your demonstration, explain how dishes and utensils should be washed, dried, and kept sanitary at home and in camp.

4. Explain what a vector is

5. With your parent's and counselor's approval, do ONE of the following:

- a. Visit a municipal wastewater treatment facility OR a solid-waste management operation in your community.

Facility Visited: _____

Describe how the facility safely treats and disposes of sewage or solid waste.

Describe how sewage and solid waste should be disposed of under wilderness camping conditions.

OR

- Visit the mosquito abatement district facility in your community.

Tell how your community attempts to control the mosquito population and why

- b. Arrange to meet with the food service manager of a food service facility (such as a restaurant or school cafeteria) and visit this establishment.

Observe food preparation, handling, and storage, and learn how the facility keeps foods from becoming contaminated.

Find out what conditions allow microorganisms to multiply in food and how conditions can be controlled to help prevent the growth and dissemination of microorganisms.

Learn how microorganisms in food can be killed.

Discuss what you learned with your counselor.

6. Do the following:

- a. Describe the health dangers from air, water, and noise pollution.

Air pollution:

Water pollution:

Noise pollution:

- b. Describe health dangers from tobacco use, alcohol, and drug abuse.

Tobacco:

Alcohol

Drug abuse.

7. With your parent's and counselor's approval, visit your city, county, or state public health agency.

Discuss how the agency addresses the concerns raised in requirements 1 through 6 and how the services provided by this agency affect your family.

Then do the following:

- a. Compare the four leading causes of mortality (death) in your community for any of the past five years with the four leading causes of disease in your community.

Mortality (death)

1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	

8. Pick a profession in the public health sector that interests you. _____

Find out the education, training, and experience required to work in this profession.

Education:

Training:

Experience:

Discuss what you learn with your counselor.

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>.