



Crime Prevention

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 2024 • 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

Comments or suggestions for changes to the **requirements** for the **merit badge** should be sent to: Merit.Badge@Scouting.Org

1. Discuss the role and value of laws in society with regard to crime and crime prevention.

Include in your discussion the definitions of "crime" and "crime prevention."

"Crime":	
Crime Prevention	

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- c. 2. Prepare a journal from various sources that addresses crime and crime prevention efforts in your community.
- 3. Discuss the following with your counselor:

- a. The role of citizens, including youth, in crime prevention

- b. Gangs and their impact on the community

- c. When and how to report a crime

4. After doing EACH of the following, discuss with your counselor what you have learned.

- a. Inspect your neighborhood for opportunities that may lead to crime.

Learn how to do a crime prevention survey.

- b. Using the checklist in this (*the merit badge*) pamphlet, conduct a security survey of your home and discuss the results with your family. (A copy of the *Home Safety Checklist* can be found at the end of this workbook.)

- c 5. Teach your family or patrol members how to protect themselves from crime at home.
- 6. Help raise awareness about one school safety issue facing students by doing ONE of the following:
 - c a. Create a poster for display on a school bulletin board.
 - c b. With permission from school officials, create a page long public service announcement that could be read over the public address system at school or posted on the school's website.

- c c. Make a presentation to a group such as a Cub Scout den that addresses the issue.

7. Do ONE of the following:

- a. Assist in the planning and organization of a crime prevention program in your community such as Neighborhood Watch, Community Watch, or Crime Stoppers. Explain how this program can benefit your neighborhood.

- b. With your parent or guardian's and counselor's approval, visit a jail or detention facility or a criminal court hearing. Discuss your experience with your counselor.

8. Discuss the following with your counselor:

- a. How drug abuse awareness programs help prevent crime

- b. Why alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana are sometimes called "gateway drugs" and how "gateway drugs" can lead to the use of other drugs

c. The potential consequences from the misuse of prescription drugs.

d. How the illegal sale and use of drugs lead to other crimes

e. Three resources in your city where a person with a drug problem or drug-related problem can go for help

f. How to recognize child abuse

g. The three R's of Youth Protection

9. Discuss the following with your counselor:

a. The role of a sheriff's or police department in crime prevention.

b. The purpose and operation of agencies in your community that help law enforcement personnel prevent crime, and how those agencies function during emergency situations.

c. Explain the role private security plays in crime prevention.

d. Choose a career in the crime prevention or security industry that interests you.

Career

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Describe the level of education required and responsibilities of a person in that position.

Education:	
Responsibilities:	

Tell why this position interests you.

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>.

Crime Prevention Merit Badge Sample Home Security Checklist

Scout's Name: _____

Here are some things to consider with your parent or guardian and counselor. See your Crime Prevention Merit Badge Pamphlet for explanations about each item on the checklist.

- 1. Do you keep a list of all valuable property? Is at least one copy kept outside your home?
- 2. Do you have a list of the serial numbers of your valuable property (watches, cameras, computers, TVs, etc.)?
- 3. Do you have descriptions/photographs of valuable property from each room in your home (and closets)?
- 4. Do you keep excess cash and other valuables in a bank? Consider renting a safe deposit box for important papers.
- 5. Do you plan so that you don't need to "hide" a house key under the doormat or in a similar location?
- 6. Do your family members know what to do if they discover a burglar in your home? Don't go in! Dial 911!
- 7. Do family members know to leave everything undisturbed and call the sheriff or police if they discover a burglary?
- 8. Are trees and shrubs trimmed to eliminate hiding places?
- 9. Do you have a security closet with a solid-core door, non-removable hinges, and a deadbolt lock? For items of value.
- 10. Do you have emergency telephone numbers listed on your phone? In most areas of the country it is 911.
- 11. Is the outside of your home well lit? Do you have working porch lights? Is your yard well illuminated?
- 12. Is your house number easily visible from the street at any hour? Police need to see your number in an emergency.
- 13. Are ladders locked up and trellises and drainpipes eliminated that can be used as ladders to reach upper floor?
- 14. Are your exterior doors of solid-core construction? Hollow core wood doors offer little protection from break in.
- 15. Do your entry doors have wide-angle viewers? Needed so you can see out before opening the door.
- 16. Are your door's locks secure from being opened if a burglar breaks out a pane of glass or a panel of lightweight wood?
- 17. Do exterior doors have cylinder-type deadbolt locks with at least a one-inch throw and a beveled cylinder guard?
- 18. Do doors without cylinder locks have a heavy deadbolt or similar security that can be operated only from the inside?
- 19. Can all of your doors (basement, porch, sliding, French, balcony) be securely locked?
- 20. Do your basement doors have locks that allow you to isolate that part of your home?
- 21. Are all of your locks in good repair?
- 22. Are the door strike-plates installed with three-inch screws? Three-inch screws will reach the stud inside the wall.
- 23. Do you know everyone who has a key to your home? Did you change the locks when you moved in?
- 24. Do all out-swinging doors in your home have non-removable pins?
- 25. Do sliding doors have a lock that locks both the door panels together or locks the active side to the frame?
- 26. Is the garage door secured with a padlock, hasp, or other good lock? Even doors with electric openers need locks.
- 27. Do you lock your garage door at night?
- 28. Do you make sure your garage door is locked when you're away from home?
- 29. Do you lock your car and take out the keys even when it is parked in your garage?
- 30. Are all windows in your home equipped with key locks, or pinned?
- 31. Are your window locks properly and securely mounted?
- 32. Do you keep your windows locked when they are shut?
- 33. Do you use locks that let you lock a window that is partly open?
- 34. Have you replaced or secured louvered windows?

Crime Prevention Merit Badge Sample Home Security Checklist

Scout's Name: _____

- 35. In high-crime areas, do you use window bars or ornamental grilles? Make sure bars or grilles don't block fire escape.
- 36. Do you have secure locks on garage windows?
- 37. Do you cover garage windows with curtains or shades?
- 38. Are you as careful to secure basement and second-story windows as you are to secure windows on the first floor?
- 39. Do you use good telephone security procedures?
 - Never give personal information (name, age, address, etc.) to a stranger on the telephone.
 - Never let a stranger know that you are home alone.
 - Never let a stranger on the telephone know when you will or will not be home.
- 40. When planning a trip, do you secure your telephone? Consider call forwarding or at least check messages daily.
- 41. When you go on a trip, do you arrange for friends or neighbors to pick up newspapers, mail, packages, etc.?
- 42. Do you arrange to make your home look lived-in while you are away? Ask friends to pick up newspapers, mail, etc. daily. Consider light timers. Ask neighbors to park in your driveway and to put out your trash cans on garbage day.
- 43. Do you notify a neighbor that you'll be gone? Leave a key with a friend. Ask that your home be checked every so often.
- 44. Do you notify you police or sheriff that you'll be gone?
- 45. Do you store all your valuables in a secure place while you're gone, such as a safe deposit box in a bank?