



# Family Life

## 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 2010 • This workbook was updated in April 2012.

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 improving this workbook to: [Workbooks@USScouts.org](mailto:Workbooks@USScouts.org)

1. Prepare an outline on what a family is and discuss this with your merit badge counselor. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Tell why families are important to individuals and to society.

Individuals: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Society. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Discuss how the actions of one member can affect other members. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. List several reasons why you are important to your family and discuss this with your parents or guardians and with your merit badge counselor. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Prepare a list of your regular home duties or chores (at least five) and do them for 90 days. Keep a record of how often you do each of them.

Chore 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Chore 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Chore 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Chore 5 \_\_\_\_\_

Chore 3 \_\_\_\_\_ Chore 6 \_\_\_\_\_

*(See the sample Home Chore Chart at the end of this workbook.)*

4. With the approval of your parents or guardians and your merit badge counselor, decide on and carry out a project that you would do around the home that would benefit your family. \_\_\_\_\_

Submit a report to your merit badge counselor outlining how the project benefited your family. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5.  Plan and carry out a project that involves the participation of your family.

After completing the project, discuss the following with your merit badge counselor:

a. The objective or goal of the project \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b. How individual members of your family participated \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

c. The results of the project \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6. Do the following:

a. Discuss with your merit badge counselor how to plan and carry out a family meeting. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b. After this discussion, plan and carry out a family meeting to include the following subjects:

1. Avoiding substance abuse, including tobacco, alcohol, and drugs, all of which negatively affect your health and well-being.

Tobacco: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Alcohol: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Drugs: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2. Understanding the growing-up process and how the body changes, and making responsible decisions dealing with sex \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Personal and family finances \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. A crisis situation within your family \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. The effect of technology on your family \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Good etiquette and manners: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Discussion of each of these subjects will very likely carry over to more than one family meeting.

7. Discuss the following with your counselor:

a. Your understanding of what makes an effective father and why, and your thoughts on the father's role in the family \_\_\_\_\_

What makes an effective father: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

The father's role in the family: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

b. Your understanding of the responsibilities of a parent \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

### Sample Home Duty or Chore List

Week:	/	/	-	/	/			Week:	/	/	-	/	/			Week:	/	/	-	/	/		
Day:	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Day:	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Day:	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Duty 1								Duty 1								Duty 1							
Duty 2								Duty 2								Duty 2							
Duty 3								Duty 3								Duty 3							
Duty 4								Duty 4								Duty 4							
Duty 5								Duty 5								Duty 5							
Duty 6								Duty 6								Duty 6							

Week:	/	/	-	/	/			Week:	/	/	-	/	/			Week:	/	/	-	/	/		
Day:	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Day:	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Day:	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Duty 1								Duty 1								Duty 1							
Duty 2								Duty 2								Duty 2							
Duty 3								Duty 3								Duty 3							
Duty 4								Duty 4								Duty 4							
Duty 5								Duty 5								Duty 5							
Duty 6								Duty 6								Duty 6							

Week:	/	/	-	/	/			Week:	/	/	-	/	/			Week:	/	/	-	/	/		
Day:	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Day:	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Day:	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Duty 1								Duty 1								Duty 1							
Duty 2								Duty 2								Duty 2							
Duty 3								Duty 3								Duty 3							
Duty 4								Duty 4								Duty 4							
Duty 5								Duty 5								Duty 5							
Duty 6								Duty 6								Duty 6							

Week:	/	/	-	/	/			Week:	/	/	-	/	/			Week:	/	/	-	/	/		
Day:	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Day:	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Day:	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Duty 1								Duty 1								Duty 1							
Duty 2								Duty 2								Duty 2							
Duty 3								Duty 3								Duty 3							
Duty 4								Duty 4								Duty 4							
Duty 5								Duty 5								Duty 5							
Duty 6								Duty 6								Duty 6							

Week:	/	/	-	/	/		
Day:	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Duty 1							
Duty 2							
Duty 3							
Duty 4							
Duty 5							
Duty 6							

Enter the dates for the weeks across the top of each block.  
 Under the day of the week the duty is performed, enter a check mark or X  
 next to the duty number. Each duty may not need to be done each day.

Your parent or guardian may want to initial this chart each time duties are  
 completed.

## 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.