



Traffic Safety

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 2007 • 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

1. Do the following:

a. Describe the top 10 mistakes new drivers frequently make.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Name the two items you are required by law to carry with you whenever you operate a motor vehicle.

1. _____
2. _____

b. Describe how alcohol and other drugs affect the human body and why a person should never drink and drive, or drive while under the influence of any mind-altering substances, including prescription drugs, cold medications, and illicit drugs. _____

List five common distractions, explain how driver distractions contribute to traffic accidents, and tell how drivers can minimize distractions.

Distraction: _____

How it contributes to accidents: _____

How to minimize: _____

Distraction: _____

How it contributes to accidents: _____

How to minimize: _____

Distraction: _____

How it contributes to accidents: _____

How to minimize: _____

Distraction: _____

How it contributes to accidents: _____

How to minimize: _____

Distraction: _____

How it contributes to accidents: _____

How to minimize: _____

Describe how volunteer drivers can plan to be alert when transporting Scouting participants. _____

2. Do the following:

- a. Demonstrate how to properly wear a lap or shoulder belt. Explain why it is important for drivers and passengers to wear safety belts at all times. _____

- b. List five safety features found in motor vehicles besides occupant restraint systems Describe each feature, how each works, and how each contributes to safety.

Feature: _____

How it works: _____

How it contributes to safety: _____

Feature: _____

How it works: _____

How it contributes to safety: _____

Feature: _____

How it works: _____

How it contributes to safety: _____

Feature: _____

How it works: _____

How it contributes to safety: _____

Feature: _____

How it works: _____

How it contributes to safety: _____

3. Do the following:

- a. Using your family car or another vehicle, demonstrate that all lights and lighting systems in the vehicle are working. Describe the function and explain why each type of light is important to safe driving. Lighting Type _____

Function _____

Importance _____

Lighting Type _____

Function _____

Importance _____

Lighting Type _____

Function _____

Importance _____

Lighting Type _____

Function _____

Importance _____

Lighting Type _____

Function _____

Importance _____

Lighting Type _____

Function _____

Importance _____

- b. Using your family car or another vehicle, demonstrate how to check tire pressure and identify the correct tire pressure for the vehicle. Explain why proper tire pressure is important to safe driving. _____

- c. Demonstrate a method to check for adequate tire tread. Explain why proper tread is important to safe driving. _____

Signals: _____

Pavement markings: _____

d. Describe at least three examples of traffic laws that apply to drivers of motor vehicles and that bicyclists must also obey.

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____

5. Do ONE of the following:

a. Interview a traffic law enforcement officer in your community to identify what three traffic safety problems the officer is most concerned about. _____

Discuss with your merit badge counselor possible ways to solve one of those problems. _____

b. Using the Internet (with your parent's permission), visit five Web sites that cover safe driving for teenagers. As a group, discuss what you learn with your counselor and at least three other teenagers.

c. Initiate and organize an activity or event to demonstrate the importance of traffic safety.

Discuss the findings with your merit badge counselor. _____

Requirement resources can be found here:
http://www.meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Traffic_Safety#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.