



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA COMMUNICATION MERIT BADGE



Troop 53
January 2015

Mike DiPaolo
Tr. 53 ASM
Training Coordinator
Communication MB Counselor

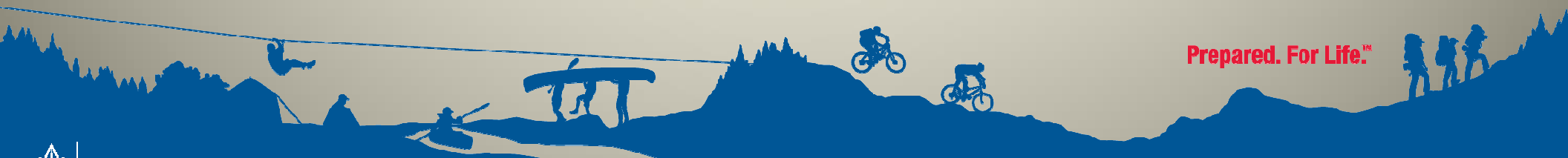
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How I will conduct this Merit Badge



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Counselor Introduction

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Your Counselor



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BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

BSA Troop 53, San Diego, CA

I will be tough, but fair –





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Week 1

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Communication Merit Badge Requirements

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Requirement #1

1. Do ONE of the following:

- ☐ a. For one day, keep a log in which you describe your communication activities. Keep track of the time and different ways you spend communicating, such as talking person-to-person, listening to teachers or the radio, watching television, using social media, reading books and other print media, and using any electronic communication device.
- ☐ b. For three days, keep a journal of your listening experiences.
- ☐ c. In a small-group setting, meet with other Scouts or with friends. Have them share personal stories about significant events in their lives that affected them in some way. Take note of how each Scout participates in the group discussion and how effectively he communicates his story.

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Requirement #1

1. Do ONE of the following:

- ☐ d. List as many ways as you can think of to communicate with others (face-to-face, by telephone, letter, e-mail, text messages, and so on). For each type of communication, discuss with your counselor an instance when that method might not be appropriate or effective.





Requirement #2

2. Do ONE of the following:

- ☐ a. Think of a creative way to describe yourself using, for example, a collage, short story or autobiography, drawing or series of photographs, or a song or skit. Using the aid you created, make a presentation to your counselor about yourself.
- ☐ b. Choose a concept, product, or service in which you have great confidence.
 - Build a sales plan based on its good points.
 - Try to persuade the counselor to agree with, use, or buy your concept, product, or service. After your sales talk, discuss with your counselor how persuasive you were.





Requirement #3

3. Write a five-minute speech. Give it at a meeting of a group.

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Requirement #4

4. Interview someone you know fairly well, like, or respect because of his or her position, talent, career, or life experiences.
 - Listen actively to learn as much as you can about the person. Then prepare and deliver to your counselor an introduction of the person as though this person were to be a guest speaker, and include reasons why the audience would want to hear this person speak.
- ☐ Show how you would call to invite this person to speak





Requirement #5

5. Do the following:

- ☐ Attend a public meeting (city council, school board, debate) approved by your counselor where several points of view are given on a single issue.
- ☐ Practice active listening skills and take careful notes of each point of view.
 - Prepare an objective report that includes all points of view that were expressed, and share this with your counselor.





Requirement #6

6. With your counselor's approval, develop a plan to teach a skill or inform someone about something.

☐ Prepare teaching aids for your plan.

Carry out your plan. With your counselor, determine whether the person has learned what you intended.





Requirement #7

7. Do ONE of the following:

☐ a. Write to the editor of a magazine or your local newspaper to express your opinion or share information on any subject you choose.

☐ Send your message by ☐ fax, ☐ e-mail, or ☐ regular mail.

☐ b. Create a web page or blog of special interest to you (for instance, your troop or crew, a hobby, or a sport). Include at least three articles or entries and one photograph or illustration and one link to some other Web page or blog that would be helpful to someone who visits the Web page or blog you have created. It is not necessary to post your Web page or blog to the Internet, but if you decide to do so, you must first share it with your parents and counselor and get their permission.

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Requirement #7

7. Do ONE of the following:

- ☐ c. Use desktop publishing to produce a newsletter, brochure, flier, or other printed material for your Scout troop, class at school, or other group. Include at least one article and one photograph or illustration.





Requirement #8

8. ☐ Plan a troop or crew court of honor, campfire program, or interfaith worship service.

☐ Have the patrol leaders' council approve it, then write the script and prepare the program.

☐ Serve as master of ceremonies.





Requirement #9

9. Find out about three career opportunities in the field of communication.

Pick one and explain how to prepare for such a career.

Discuss with your counselor what education and training are required, and explain why this profession might interest you.





Requirements (Fine Print)

[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.**

It is sometimes reported that Scouts who have received merit badges through group instructional settings have not fulfilled all the requirements. To offer a quality merit badge program, council and district advancement committees should ensure the following are in place for all group instructional events.

- Merit badge counselors are known to be registered and approved.
- Any guest experts or guest speakers, or others assisting who are not registered and approved as merit badge counselors, do not accept the responsibilities of, or behave as, merit badge counselors, either at a group instructional event or at any other time. Their service is temporary, not ongoing.
- **Counselors agree not to assume prerequisites have been completed without some level of evidence that the work has been done. Pictures and letters from other merit badge counselors or unit leaders are the best form of prerequisite documentation when the actual work done cannot be brought to the camp or site of the merit badge event.**
- There is a mechanism for unit leaders or others to report concerns to a council advancement committee on summer camp merit badge programs, group instructional events, and any other merit badge counseling issues—especially in instances where it is believed BSA procedures are not followed. See “Reporting Merit Badge Counseling Concerns,” 11.1.0.0.
- **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.**

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Requirements (Fine Print)

[7.0.3.3] — Partial Completions

A Scout need not pass all the requirements of one merit badge with the same counselor. It may be that due to timing or location issues, etc., he must meet with a different counselor to finish the badge. 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, the counselor does not retain his or her 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 unit leader to find another counselor. An example for the use of a signed partial would be to take it to camp as proof of prerequisites. Partial completions have no expiration except the Scout’s 18th birthday. Units, districts, or councils shall not establish other expiration dates for partial merit badges.

[7.0.4.8] — Unofficial Worksheets and Learning Aids

Worksheets and other materials that may be of assistance in earning merit badges are available from a variety of places including unofficial sources on the Internet and even troop libraries. Use of these aids is permissible as long as the materials can be correlated with the current requirements that Scouts must fulfill. Completing “worksheets” may suffice where a requirement calls for something in writing, but this would not work for a requirement where the Scout must discuss, tell, show, or demonstrate, etc. Note that Scouts shall not be required to use these learning aids in order to complete a merit badge.

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Agenda

Week 1 – 1c Intro / Reqs / Course Schedule

Week 2 – 2 a. Self intro or b. Product intro

Week 3 – 3 Post Interview discussion, 5m speeches

Week 4 – 4 5m speeches, Scout interview and intro

Week 5 – 9 3 Communication Careers presentations

Week 6 – 8 Campfire Planning

Week 7 – 5, 6, 7 - discuss / turn in projects for 5, 6, 7

Week 8 – make ups

Week 9 – make ups

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Agenda: 2015 / Tr. 53

JANUARY 2015 (theme: **Communications**)

- 3 Adult Leader Meeting
- 5 Troop Meeting – Communications – Req. # 1 –
- 12 Troop Meeting – Communications – Req. # 2 –
- 17-18 Troop Outing – Eagle Rock – PCT – Los Coyote Indian Reservation - backpack
- 17-18 Venture Outing – Eagle Rock – PCT – Los Coyote Indian Reservation - backpack
- 19 Troop Meeting – Communications – Req. # 3 – C of H cut off
- 24 Service Project – (8:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.) Camp Balboa
- 26 Patrol Leaders Council meeting – 6:15 p.m.
- 26 Troop Meeting – Court of Honor Prep

FEBRUARY 2015 (theme: **Communications**)

- 1 Scout Sunday
- 2 Troop Meeting – Court of Honor
- 7 Adult Leader Meeting -
- 9 Troop Meeting – Communications – Req. # 4
- 14-16 Troop Outing – Snow Camping
- 14-16 Venture Outing – Snow Camping

FEBRUARY 2015 (theme: **Communications**) (continued)

- 16 No Troop Meeting
- 23 Patrol Leaders Council Meeting – 6:15 p.m.
- 23 Troop Meeting – Communications – Req. # 5
- 28 Fund Raiser – Spaghetti Dinner – North Park Lions Club

MARCH 2015 (theme: **Communications**)

- 1 Lemon Grove Rod & Gun Club Shooting Activity
- 2 Troop Meeting – Communications – Req. # 5 (continued)
- 7 Adult Leader Meeting
- 9 Troop Meeting – Communications – Req. # 6
- 16 Troop Meeting – Communications – Req. # 7
- 21-22 Troop Outing – Indian Hill – Anza Borrego Desert – backpack
- 21-22 Venture Outing – Goat Canyon – Carrizo Gorge Train Trestle - backpack
- 23 Troop Meeting – Communications – Req. # 8 - Troop Elections –
- 28 Service Project - NPCC
- 30 PLC Meeting – 6:15 p.m.
- 30 Troop Meeting – Scout Fair Preparation - (H-Trellis Building/lashings) **Communications** - Req. # 9

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The Edge Method

EDGE:

- Explain
- Demonstrate
- Guide
- Enable

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Communications

Webster's definition:

- A verbal or written message
- A process by which information is exchanged between individuals through a common system of symbols, signs, or behavior
- Exchange of information
- A technique for expressing ideas effectively
 - (as in speech)
- The technology of the transmission of information
 - (as by print or telecommunication)

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Week 2

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