



COMMUNICATIONS

Merit Badge Requirements

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 your teachers or the radio, watching television, reading books, and other print media, and communication online. Discuss with your counselor what your log reveals about the importance of communication in your life. Think of ways to improve your communications skills.

B) For three days, keep a journal of your listening experiences. Identify one example of each of the following, and discuss with your counselor when you have listened to:

- 1) Obtain information
- 2) A persuasive argument
- 3) Appreciate or enjoy something
- 4) Understand someone's feelings

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 effective each one is in telling his story. Report what you have learned to your counselor about the differences you observed in effective communication.

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

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.

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

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.

5) 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. Present an objective report that includes all points of view that were expressed, and share this with your counselor.

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.

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, email or regular mail.

B) Create a web page for your scout troop, school, or other organization. Include at least one article and one photograph or illustration, and one link to some other web page that would be helpful to someone who visits the web page you have created. It is not necessary to post your web page to the internet, but if you decide to do so, you must first share it with your parents and counselor and get their permission.

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.

Requirements continued on next page

Scout Name: _____ Unit #: _____ Date: _____

8) Plan a troop court of honor or campfire program. Have the patrol leaders' council approve it, then write the script and prepare the program. Serve as master of ceremonies.

9) Learn about opportunities in the field of communication. Choose on career in which you are interested and discuss with your counselor the major responsibilities of that position and the qualifications, education, and preparation it requires.

Requirement 1

You have been given four options for this requirement. Select and complete one of them.

If you selected *Option 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 your teachers or the radio, watching television, reading books, and other print media, and communication online. Attach your log to this worksheet.

___ Discuss with your counselor what your log reveals about the importance of communication in your life. Have your counselor initial this requirement after your discussion.

In what ways can you improve your communications skills? _____

If you selected *Option B*:

For three days, keep a journal of your listening experiences. Attach your journal to this worksheet.

Identify one example of listening to obtain information: _____

Tell when you have listened to obtain information: _____

Identify one example of listening to a persuasive argument: _____

Tell when you have listened to a persuasive argument: _____

Identify one example of listening to appreciate or enjoy something: _____

Tell when you have listened to appreciate or enjoy something: _____

Scout Name: _____ Unit #: _____ Date: _____

If you selected **Option D**:

List as many ways as you can think of to communicate with others (face-to-face, phone, fax, letter, email). For each type of communication that you listed, discuss with your counselor an instance when that method might not be appropriate or effective.

Type of Communication: _____

When might this method not be appropriate or effective? _____

Type of Communication: _____

When might this method not be appropriate or effective? _____

Type of Communication: _____

When might this method not be appropriate or effective? _____

Type of Communication: _____

When might this method not be appropriate or effective? _____

Type of Communication: _____

When might this method not be appropriate or effective? _____

Type of Communication: _____

When might this method not be appropriate or effective? _____

Type of Communication: _____

When might this method not be appropriate or effective? _____

Requirement 6

With your counselor's approval, develop a plan to teach a skill or inform someone about something. The skill I have chosen to teach is: _____ OR I will inform someone about: _____.

This has been approved by my counselor: YES NO

My plan that I have developed for this is: _____

The teaching aids that I created and made were: _____

Along with your counselor check to see if the person has learned what you intended for them to learn.

Did the person learn? Yes No

How can you tell? _____

Requirement 7

You have been given three options for this requirement. Select and complete one of them.

If you selected *Option 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, email or regular mail.

To whom did you write your letter? _____

What was the subject you wrote them about? _____

How did you send your letter? FAX Email Standard Mail

__ Attach a copy of your letter to this document to show your counselor.

Requirement 9

Learn about opportunities in the field of communication. List some of the opportunities you found.

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Choose one career in which you are interested in: _____

What are the major responsibilities of that position? _____

What are the qualifications and education for that position? _____

What kind of preparation will this position require? _____

