

2. **History of Exploration.**

Discuss with your counselor the history of exploration.

Select a field of study with a history of exploration to illustrate the importance of exploration in the development of that field (for example, aerospace, oil industry, paleontology, oceanography, etc.).

Field of Study:	

3. **Importance of Exploration.**

Explain to your counselor why it is important to explore. Discuss the following:

a. Why it is important for exploration to have a scientific basis

b. How explorers have aided in our understanding of our world

c. What you think it takes to be an explorer

5. **Exploration in Lab and Field.**

Do ONE of the following, and share what you learn with your counselor:

- a. With your parent or guardian's permission and counselor's approval, visit either in person or via the internet an exploration sponsoring organization (such as The Explorers Club, National Geographic Society, Smithsonian Institution, Alpine Club, World Wildlife Fund, or similar organization). Find out what type(s) of exploration the organization supports.

Organization:

- b. With permission and approval, visit either in person or via the internet a science lab, astronomical observatory, medical research facility, or similar site. Learn what exploration is done in this facility.

Site Visited:

6. **Expedition Planning.**

Discuss with your counselor each of the following steps for conducting a successful exploration activity. Explain the need for each step.

- a. Identify the objectives (establish goals).

- b. Plan the mission. Create an expedition agenda or schedule.

- List potential documents or permits needed.

- c. Budget and plan for adequate financial resources. Estimate costs for travel, equipment, accommodations, meals, permits or licenses, and other expedition expenses.

- d. Determine equipment and supplies required for personal and mission needs for the length of the expedition.

- e. Determine communication and transportation needs. Plan how to keep in contact with your base or the outside world, and determine how you will communicate with each other on-site.

- f. Establish safety and first aid procedures (including planning for medical evacuation).

- Identify the hazards that explorers could encounter on the expedition, and establish procedures to prevent or avoid those hazards.

Hazard	Procedure to Prevent or Avoid

- g. Determine team selection. Identify who is essential for the expedition to be successful and what skills are required by the expedition leader.

- h. Establish detailed recordkeeping (documentation) procedures. Plan the interpretation and sharing of information at the conclusion of the expedition.

7. **Prepare for an Expedition.**

With your parent or guardian's permission and counselor's approval, prepare for an actual expedition to an area you have not previously explored; the place may be nearby or far away. Do the following:

- a. Make your preparations under the supervision of a trained expedition leader, expedition planner, or other qualified adult experienced in exploration (such as a school science teacher, museum representative, or qualified instructor).

- b. Use the steps listed in requirement 6 to guide your preparations. List the items of equipment and supplies you will need.

- Discuss with your counselor why you chose each item and how it will be of value on the expedition.

- Determine who should go on the expedition.

- c. Conduct a pre-expedition check, covering the steps in requirement 6, and share the results with your counselor.

- With your counselor, walk through the Sweet Sixteen of BSA Safety for your expedition. Ensure that all foreseeable hazards for your expedition are adequately addressed.

Subject

- 1. Qualified Supervision
- 2. Physical Fitness
- 3. Buddy System
- 4. Safe Area or Course
- 5. Equipment Selection and Maintenance
- 6. Personal Safety Equipment
- 7. Safety Procedures and Policies
- 8. Skill Level Limits
- 9. Weather Check
- 10. Planning
- 11. Communications
- 12. Permits and Notices
- 13. First-Aid Resources
- 14. Applicable Laws
- 15. CPR Resource
- 16. Discipline

8. **Go on an Expedition.**

Complete the following:

- a. With your parent or guardian's permission and under the supervision of your merit badge counselor or a counselor-approved qualified person, use the planning steps you learned in requirement 6 and the preparations you completed in requirement 7 to personally undertake an actual expedition to an area you have not previously explored.
- b. Discuss with your counselor about the vital role of outdoor ethics in exploration, explaining how they promote responsible and mindful adventuring. Explain how you applied the outdoor code, Leave No Trace and Tread Lightly! principles during your expedition.

- c. After you return, compile a report on the results of your expedition and how you accomplished your objective(s). Include a statement of the objectives, note your findings and observations, include photos, note any discoveries, report any problems or adverse events, and have a conclusion (whether you reached your objective or not). The post-expedition report must be at least one page and no more than three; one page can be photos, graphs, or figures.

9. **Careers. Do ONE of the following:**

(a) Explore careers related to the Exploration merit badge. Research one career to learn about the training and education needed, costs, job prospects, salary, job duties, and career advancement. Your research methods may include -- with your parent or guardian's permission -- an internet or library search, an interview with a professional in the field, or a visit to a location where people in this career work. Discuss with your counselor both your findings and what about this profession might make it an interesting career.

Career: _____

Training	
Education	
Costs	
Job Prospects	

Salary

Job Duties

Career
Advancement

- Discuss with your counselor both your findings and what about this profession might make it an interesting career.

Notes:

(b) Explore how you could use knowledge and skills from the Digital Technology merit badge to pursue a hobby or interest. Research any training needed, expenses, and organizations that promote or support it. Discuss with your counselor what short-term and long-term goals you might have if you pursued this.

Notes: