



Reading

Merit Badge Study Guide

• Organize thoughts to prepare • Take notes • Keep track of progress

Merit badge counselors may not require the use of this or any other workbook. Scouts must still demonstrate that have learned the material and can perform each required skill. If a requirement directs you to discuss, show," "tell, explain, demonstrate, identify, or anything similar, the requirement must be completed as written. No one may add to or remove anything from the official requirements listed in Scoutbook or on scouting.org/skills/merit-badges.

The requirements were revised in 2026 • This guide was updated in December 2025.

Scout's Name: _____ Unit: _____

Counselor's Name: _____ Phone No.: _____ Email: _____

- Read the [merit badge pamphlet](#) available at scouting.org/merit-badges/reading.
- View helpful online video resources for each requirement at scouting.org/merit-badges/reading.

1. Do EACH of the following:

- a. Take a tour of a library.
- b. Discuss with your counselor how the library is organized and what resources and/or services are offered in the library.

Notes:

Notes:

- c. Learn how to search for materials using library's card catalog or computerized catalog by author, title, and subject.
- d. In a library, search the card catalog or computerized catalog for six books of four different types, such as poetry, fiction, nonfiction, and biographies.

Type	Title	Author
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		

- d. With the assistance of your merit badge counselor or the librarian, see if you can locate on the shelves the six books you selected.

e. Explain what is a library card is, why it is needed, and how to get one.

Why it is needed,

How to get one.

2. Do EACH of the following:

a. Identify a book you have enjoyed.

Title: Author

Find out what other books the author has written.

b. Look at one or more "best books" lists. These can be based on year, subject, or even all time. Identify at least one book you would like to read.

Title: Author

3. Read four different types of books, such as poetry, fiction, nonfiction, or biographies.

Type	Title	Author
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		

Do any one of the following for each book you have read:

a. Write a review of the book. Include what you liked and/or didn't like about the book. Include whether you would recommend this book, and if so, who might enjoy reading it.

b. Watch a movie based on the book. What was the same between the book and movie? What was different? Which did you enjoy more? Discuss this with your merit badge counselor.

c. Give a "book talk" to your class, troop, or patrol

Book 1:

Book 2:

Book 3:

Book 4:

4. Read a nonfiction book or magazine that teaches you how to do something like cooking, wood-building projects, video game design, science experiments, knot-tying, etc.

Subject	Title	Author

With your counselor's and parent's permission, complete a project from the book.

Share your experience with your merit badge counselor. Reading a merit badge pamphlet will not count toward completing this requirement.

5. Read about the world around you from any two sources: books, magazines, newspapers, the internet (with your parent's/guardian's permission), field manuals, etc. Topics may include Scouting, sports, environmental problems, politics, social issues, current events, nature, religion, etc.

Source	Topic
1.	
2.	

Discuss what you have learned with your counselor.

6. With your counselor's and parent's or guardian's permission, choose ONE of the following activities and devote at least four hours of service to that activity. Discuss your participation with your counselor.

a. Read to a sick, blind, or homebound person in a hospital or in an extended-care facility
 b. Perform volunteer work at your school library or a public library.
 c. Read stories to younger children, in a group or individually.
 d. Organize a book swap in your troop, school, or place of worship.
 e. Organize a book drive to collect books. Donate them to an organization in need.

7. Identify three career opportunities that would use skills and knowledge in reading.

1.
2.
3.

Pick one and research the training, education, certification requirements, experience, and expenses associated with entering the field. Research the prospects for employment, starting salary, advancement opportunities, and career goals associated with this career. Discuss what you learned with your counselor and whether you might be interested in this career

Career: _____

Training	
Education	
Certification Requirements	
Experience	
Expenses associated with entering field	
Prospects for employment	
Starting salary	
Advancement opportunities	
Career goals associated with this career	