



## Communication Merit Badge Guide

### Requirements

[https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/Merit\\_Badge\\_ReqandRes/Communication.pdf](https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/Merit_Badge_ReqandRes/Communication.pdf)

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#### 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, listening to the radio or podcasts, watching television, using social media, reading books and other print media, and using any electronic communication device. Discuss with your counselor what your log reveals about the importance of communication in your life. Think of ways to improve your communication 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) Be persuaded
- (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 effectively each Scout communicates their story. Report what you have learned to your counselor about the differences you observed in effective communication.

(d) List as many ways as you can think of to communicate with others (face-to-face, by telephone, letter, email, text messages, social media, and so on). 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. Prepare 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 webpage 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 webpage or blog that would be helpful to someone who visits the webpage or blog you have created. It is not necessary to post your webpage 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.

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

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.

9. Find out about three career opportunities in communication. Pick one and find out the education, training, and experience required for this profession. Discuss this with your counselor, and explain why this profession might interest you.

## **Homework for all Merit Badges before class:**

Scouts and parents should read the **Blue Card Guide** included in the appendix to this Guide.

Scouts should read the **Merit Badge Homework Guide** included in the appendix to this Guide.

Scouts must read the BSA merit badge book (pamphlet) **before** class.

## **Homework for Communication Merit Badge before class:**

Please read this article:

Do Your Scouts Talk the Talk?

Here's how you can teach them to face down their fears of public speaking.

*Scouting*, Volume 98, Number 3, May-June 2010 Page: 22

<https://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph299170/m1/24/>

**Requirements # 2 and 3 and 4.** Scouts must work on **these requirements before class.**

Scouts will use the Peer Feedback Form included in this Guide to review presentations of other Scouts.

**Requirement # 5.** Do Your Best to attend a public meeting. You can attend a live meeting or go online and view a live or recorded meeting.

Charlotte City Council meeting schedules:

<http://charlottenc.gov/CityCouncil/Pages/Default.aspx>

<https://charlottenc.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners meeting schedule and video links:

<https://mecklenburg.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx>

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education:

<https://www.cms.k12.nc.us/boe/Pages/SchoolBoardMeetings.aspx>

Pay attention to the requirement: *Observe “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 ...”*

**Requirement # 6.** Be Prepared to teach a skill using the **EDGE** method. Bring your teaching aids and props.

**Explain** how the skill is done.

**Demonstrate** the steps you just explained. The teacher shows the step-by-step process.

**Guide** the learners as they practice. The learner is hands-on and learns from mistakes with guidance from the teacher and with practice.

**Enable** them to succeed. The teacher allows the learner to see that they can do the skill.

<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2018/05/05/living-on-the-edge-this-is-the-correct-way-to-teach-someone-a-skill/>

Alludes to 13<sup>th</sup> edition of *Boy Scout Handbook*, page 38

<https://scoutingmagazine.org/2016/12/use-edge-method-outdoors/>

<http://www.scouting.org/filestore/outdoorethicsguide/pdf/TeachingEdgeMethod.pdf>

Trainer's EDGE course syllabus, pages 11-13, 50

<http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/26-242.pdf>

See one, do one, teach one.

Practice makes perfect.

The best way to learn is to teach, from Latin *Docendo discimus*.

**Requirement #7a or 7b or 7c:**

Complete **one of these requirements** before class.

**Requirement # 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.

Scouts assigned to lead campfire:

Name	Duty
	Program
	Master of Ceremonies
	Fire wood, fire lay, and starting
	Fire "extinguisher"
	Water and tool manager
	Fire pit clean-up

Time	Activity
Noon	Patrols or Scouts develop skits
3:00 PM	Gather firewood
6:00 PM	Prepare cobbler?
6:00 PM	Firelay
	Tinder (dryer lint, cedar bark, paper, cotton balls, corn chips ?)
7:30 PM	Campfire program begins
	Light fire (flint & steel, bow drill, lighter, match, battery & steel wool)
8:00 PM	Cook cobbler?
	Skits from each patrol or from individual Scouts
8:30 PM	Campfire closing (Scoutmaster's minute, Vespers)
8:30 PM	Properly extinguish fire

For **requirement # 8**, each Scout should find and print 2 skits and 1 song to be ready for a troop campfire.

Here is a link to a Campfire Program Planner form published by BSA:  
<https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33696.pdf>

Other links to information about campfire planning:  
<http://usscouts.org/usscouts/campfires.asp>  
<https://dnowicki123.tripod.com/id91.html>

Links to ideas for skits:  
<https://www.boyscouttrail.com/skits.asp>  
<https://cubscoutideas.com/3985/cub-scout-skits-for-campfires/>  
[https://moorecountyboyscouts.org/uniform\\_pdf/100\\_skits.pdf](https://moorecountyboyscouts.org/uniform_pdf/100_skits.pdf)  
<http://usscouts.org/usscouts/skits.asp>  
<http://macscouter.com/skits/BBSkits.asp>

Scout songs : <https://www.scoutsongs.com/>

Here is a link to a sample Interfaith Worship Service published by BSA:  
<https://troopresources.scouting.org/interfaith-worship-services/>

Planning an Interfaith Scout Worship Service at  
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1RrBSOOsGXg1HqGoJZwKaHIDuQz4g6tPt2zXXISXf89A/edit?usp=sharing>

Scout Vespers at  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I7NjLAI5Alw>  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xGJi\\_qdDLGY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xGJi_qdDLGY)  
<https://www.scoutsongs.com/lyrics/scoutvesper.html>  
<https://scoutsmarts.com/scout-vespers/>

Planning an Interfaith Worship Service

<https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/worksheet08182008.pdf>

**Trainer tip:** *This sheet could be posted on the wall or projected on a screen.*

**Interfaith Worship Service Planning Worksheet**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Helper 1: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Location: \_\_\_\_\_ Helper 2: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Event: \_\_\_\_\_ Helper 3: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Leader: \_\_\_\_\_ Helper 4: \_\_\_\_\_

Include, Yes or No	Possible Elements in Order of Service	Sequence Number in Order of Service	Assigned to
	Processional with flag		
	Call to worship		
	Opening song (No. 1)		
	Prayer		
	Responsive reading		
	Offering, if appropriate		
	Song (No. 2)		
	Meditation		
	Suitable prayer		
	Song (No. 3)		
	Benediction or closing prayer		

**Other notes:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Requirement # 9.** Be Prepared with notes on communication careers. Find out about education and training and their costs, experience, expected starting salary ranges, and career paths.

## Peer Feedback Form

### Communication Merit Badge

**DIRECTIONS:** Please rate your presenter on the following criteria from 1 to 5. The lowest score is 1. The best score is 5. Be honest, but kind when you fill this out. Thank you for participating! Give the form to the presenter. Please give all forms to the teacher at the end of class.

Name of presenter: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Form filled out by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Information:	Needs work			Great job	
1. Was the presentation full of information?	1	2	3	4	5
2. How well did they do their research?	1	2	3	4	5
3. Was the information relevant to the topic?	1	2	3	4	5
4. Was the information presented in an interesting way?	1	2	3	4	5
5. Was the information important to understanding the topic?	1	2	3	4	5
Presentation:					
1. Was the presentation organized well?	1	2	3	4	5
2. Was the presentation interesting?	1	2	3	4	5
3. Did the presenter have good eye contact?	1	2	3	4	5
4. Did the presenter have a good introduction?	1	2	3	4	5
5. Was the presenter loud enough?	1	2	3	4	5
Overall:	1	2	3	4	5

What does the presenter need to work on most before their final presentation? List 3 items.

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What did the presenter do best? List 3 items. \_\_\_\_\_

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What would you like to know more about from their presentation? List three items to research.

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