



## Crime Prevention Merit Badge Guide

### Requirements

[https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/Merit\\_Badge\\_RegandRes/Crime\\_Prevention.pdf](https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/Merit_Badge_RegandRes/Crime_Prevention.pdf)  
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1. Discuss the role and value of laws in society with regard to crime and crime prevention. Include in your discussion the definitions of “crime” and “crime prevention.”
2. Prepare a journal from various sources that address crime and crime prevention efforts in your community.
3. Discuss the following with your counselor:
  - (a) The role of citizens, including youth, in crime prevention.
  - (b) Gangs and their impact on the community.
  - (c) When and how to report a crime.
4. After doing EACH of the following, discuss with your counselor what you have learned.
  - (a) Inspect your neighborhood for opportunities that may lead to crime. Learn how to do a crime prevention survey.
  - (b) Using the checklist in this pamphlet, conduct a security survey of your home and discuss the results with your family.
5. Teach your family or patrol members how to protect themselves from crime at home, at school, in your community, and while traveling.
6. Help raise awareness about one school safety issue facing students by doing ONE of the following:
  - (a) Create a poster for display on a school bulletin board.
  - (b) With permission from school officials, create a page-long public service announcement that could be read over the public address system at school or posted on the school’s website.
  - (c) Make a presentation to a group such as a Cub Scout den that addresses the issue.

7. Do ONE of the following:

(a) Assist in the planning and organization of a crime prevention program in your community such as Neighborhood Watch, Community Watch, or Crime Stoppers. Explain how this program can benefit your neighborhood.

(b) With your parent's and counselor's approval, visit a jail or detention facility or a criminal court hearing. Discuss your experience with your counselor.

8. Discuss the following with your counselor:

(a) How drug abuse awareness programs help prevent crime.

(b) Why alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana are sometimes called "gateway drugs" and how gateway drugs can lead to the use of other drugs.

(c) The potential consequences from the misuse of prescription drugs.

(d) How the illegal sale and use of drugs lead to other crimes.

(e) Three resources in your city where a person with a drug problem or drug-related problem can go for help.

(f) How to recognize child abuse.

(g) The three R's of Youth Protection.

9. Discuss the following with your counselor:

(a) The role of a sheriff's or police department in crime prevention.

(b) The purpose and operation of agencies in your community that help law enforcement personnel prevent crime, and how those agencies function during emergency situations.

(c) Explain the role private security plays in crime prevention.

(d) Choose a career in the crime prevention or security industry that interests you. Describe the level of education required and responsibilities of a person in that position. Tell why this position interests you.

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

Scouts and parents should read the **Blue Card Guide**.

Scouts should read the **Merit Badge Homework Guide**.

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

## Homework for Crime Prevention Merit Badge before class:

To earn a blue card completion by the end of the class, Scouts must complete **requirements # 2, 4 a, 4 b** before class.

**Requirement # 1:** Write out definitions of “crime” and “crime prevention”.

Learn about types of crimes from the BSA Crime Prevention Merit Badge book on pages 11 through 15:

Burglary

Robbery

Larceny (AKA theft)

Crimes against people

Crimes against property

White-collar crime (embezzlement, fraud, computer hacking, theft of office supplies and equipment)

Identity theft

Littering

Graffiti

Shoplifting

U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s

[If You See Something, Say Something® campaign](#)

<https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2022/09/23/seesayday-is-september-25-heres-what-you-can-do-to-be-prepared/>

**Requirement # 2:** Prepare a journal from various sources that address crime and crime prevention efforts in your community.

Using printed sources like local magazines or newspapers or local news from Internet sources, make a journal with entries of 3 to 4 weeks. Cite your sources with dates of the stories, with printed source name and page or with Internet URL, source, and title information.

Here are links to Charlotte television stations that carry local news stories

<https://www.wsocv.com/>

<https://www.wccbcharlotte.com/>

<https://www.wcnc.com/>

Look at the CrimeMapping.com page at

<https://www.crimemapping.com/map/agency/65>

Search by your zip code and a significant time interval (3 months suggested)

In the left menu column, click on What to learn what the map symbols mean.

In the left menu column, click on Report to see a list.

What crimes seem to be most frequent?

Click on Back to Map

In the left menu column, click on Charts.

What crimes are most frequent?

**Requirement # 3:** Discuss the following with your counselor:

- (a) The role of citizens, including youth, in crime prevention.
- (b) Gangs and their impact on the community.
- (c) When and how to report a crime.

Review information on this requirement in the merit badge pamphlet and make notes. Bring your notes to class.

**Requirement # 4 a:** Inspect your neighborhood for opportunities that may lead to crime. Learn how to do a crime prevention survey.

Are streets well lit?

Do police or security officers patrol the neighborhood?

Do people loiter on corners or in vacant lots?

Are gangs active in the neighborhood?

Do neighbors report on suspicious activities or crimes (like auto break-ins or theft of catalytic converters) to a community newsletter?

**Requirement # 4 b:** Using the checklist in this pamphlet, conduct a security survey of your home and discuss the results with your family.

Scouts can print a checklist from the page at <http://usscouts.org/mb/mb131.asp> .

The checklist can be a separate document or a part of your workbook.

Please complete the checklist with a parent and have your parent sign and date your checklist indicating when you completed your security survey.

**Requirement # 5:** Teach your family or patrol members how to protect themselves from crime at home, at school, in your community, and while traveling.

At home

<https://www.safehome.org/news/stop-criminals-from-choosing-your-home/>

<https://www.chubb.com/my-en/articles/tips-to-prevent-house-break-in.html>

<https://www.firestoneco.gov/449/Tips-to-Prevent-Burglary>

<https://www.manchester.gov.uk/info/200030/crime-antisocial-behaviour-and-nuisance/2394/crime-prevention/3>

At school

<https://www.ashevillenc.gov/service/tips-for-preventing-school-violence/>

<https://www.sfisd.org/departments/police-department/school-crime-prevention-tips>

<https://www.pta.org/home/family-resources/safety/School-Safety/Checklist-to-Help-Prevent-Violence-in-Schools>

In community

<http://archive.ncpc.org/topics/violent-crime-and-personal-safety/protect-yourself-from-violent-crime.html>

<https://uca.edu/police/crime-prevention/safe-shopping-crime-prevention-tips/>

<https://www.sanfranciscopolice.org/stay-safe/safety-tips/safe-shopper-tips>

While traveling

<https://www.webmd.com/a-to-z-guides/features/how-protect-yourself-against-crime>

<https://www.chubb.com/us-en/businesses/resources/safety-tips-for-the-business-traveler.html>



A photo of a poster at a National Park visitor center adjacent to a parking lot



A sign on a building in a big city

Identity theft

<https://www.chubb.com/us-en/individuals-families/resources/tips-for-avoiding-identity-theft.html>

Crime prevention ideas

<https://www.wikihow.com/Reduce-Crime-in-Your-Neighborhood>

<https://www.ncpc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/streetwise.pdf>

<https://www.ncpc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/robbers-are-equal-opportunity-criminals.pdf>

<https://health.springfieldmo.gov/332/Crime-Prevention-Tips>

<https://health.springfieldmo.gov/253/Holiday-Crime-Prevention-Tips>

<https://health.springfieldmo.gov/255/Protect-Yourself-in-a-Parking-Garage>

Crime prevention and personal safety tips to help keep you and your community safe from crime

<https://www.ncpc.org/resources-2/home-neighborhood-safety/>

### **Requirement # 6 a:**

6. Help raise awareness about one school safety issue facing students by doing ONE of the following:

(a) Create a poster for display on a school bulletin board.

Scouts may draw or print a poster on standard 8 1/2 x 11 inch paper or other poster size of their own choice on a crime prevention topic of their own choice.

Scouts must bring their completed poster to Winter Camp for display or Scouts can make a poster at Winter Camp.

If you use graphics and text from any web sites, please include the page address (URL) on your poster.

Ideas:

Google search: school safety posters

You will find many safety poster templates. Use the ideas to make a simple poster of your own design. Document your sources by recording URLs.

<https://www.nsc.org/community-safety/safety-topics/school-safety/school-safety-home>

<https://www.schoolsafety.gov/bullying-and-cyberbullying>

<https://www.schoolsafety.gov/mental-health>

<https://www.samhsa.gov/talk-they-hear-you>

<https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/active-shooter-poster-2017-508.pdf>

<https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/CISA-Active-Shooter-Pocket-Card-052022-508.pdf>

<https://www.schoolsafety.gov/threat-assessment-and-reporting>

[https://www.schoolsafety.gov/sites/default/files/2019-12/SchoolSafety.gov\\_FSSC\\_LowCostTactics.pdf](https://www.schoolsafety.gov/sites/default/files/2019-12/SchoolSafety.gov_FSSC_LowCostTactics.pdf)

**Requirement # 7:** Do ONE of the following:

(a) Assist in the planning and organization of a crime prevention program in your community such as Neighborhood Watch, Community Watch, or Crime Stoppers. Explain how this program can benefit your neighborhood.

(b) With your parent's and counselor's approval, visit a jail or detention facility or a criminal court hearing. Discuss your experience with your counselor.

So that all Scouts in the class have a common experience, Scouts can take a virtual tour of the Charlotte County jail (in Florida) lasting 11 minutes posted at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x8S4xjic0P8>

Please make notes on your observations and bring these notes to class to discuss.