

MERIT BADGE SERIES



FAMILY LIFE



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

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"Enhancing our youths' competitive edge through merit badges"



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Note to the Counselor

Some of the issues surrounding requirement 6 for the family meeting could be considered of a personal nature. Use discretion when reviewing this requirement with the Scout.



Requirements

Always check www.scouting.org for the latest requirements.

1. Prepare an outline on what a family is and discuss this with your merit badge counselor. Tell why families are important to individuals and to society. Discuss how the actions of one member can affect other members.
2. List several reasons why you are important to your family and discuss this with your parents or guardians and with your merit badge counselor.
3. Prepare a list of your regular home duties or chores (at least five) and do them for 90 days. Keep a record of how often you do each of them. Discuss with your counselor the effect your chores had on your family.
4. With the approval of your parents or guardians and your merit badge counselor, decide on and carry out a project that you would do around the home that would benefit your family. Discuss your report with your merit badge counselor.
5. Plan and carry out a project that involves the participation of your family. After completing the project, discuss the following with your merit badge counselor:
 - a. The objective or goal of the project
 - b. How individual members of your family participated
 - c. The results of the project



6. Do the following:
- a. Discuss with your merit badge counselor how to plan and carry out a family meeting.
 - b. Prepare a meeting agenda that includes the following topics, review it with your parents or guardians, and then carry out one or more family meetings:
 - (1) How living the principles of the Scout Oath and Scout Law contributes to your family life
 - (2) The greatest dangers and addictions facing youth in today's society (examples include use of tobacco products, alcohol, or drugs and other items such as debts, social media, etc.)
 - (3) Understanding the growing-up process and how the body changes, and making responsible decisions dealing with sex
 - (4) Personal and family finances
 - (5) A crisis situation within your family
 - (6) The effect of technology on your family
 - (7) Good etiquette and manners

Discussion of each of these subjects may carry over to more than one family meeting.
7. Discuss with your counselor your understanding of what makes an effective parent and why, and your thoughts on the parent's role and responsibilities in the family.

*This conversation may take place with only one or both of your parents or guardians.

Family Life Resources

Scouting Literature

American Cultures, American Heritage, Citizenship in the Community, Citizenship in the Nation, Citizenship in the World, Communication, Cooking, Crime Prevention, Disabilities Awareness, Genealogy, and Personal Management merit badge pamphlets

With your parent's permission, visit the Boy Scouts of America's official retail website, www.scoutshop.org, for a complete listing of all merit badge pamphlets and other helpful Scouting materials and supplies.

Books

- Beacham, Susan P. and Michael L. Beacham. *O.M.G.: Official Money Guide for Teenagers*. Money Savvy Generation Inc., 2014.
- Block, Joel D., et al. *Stepliving for Teens: Getting Along With Stepparents and Siblings*. Price Stern Sloan, 2001.
- Carlson, Richard. *Don't Sweat the Small Stuff for Teens*. Hachette Books, 2000.
- Coleman, Ronda. *Around the Family Table: 365 Mealtime Conversations for Parents and Children*. Gryphon House Inc., 2001.
- Covey, Sean. *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens*. Simon & Schuster, 2014.
- . *The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens Personal Workbook*. Simon & Schuster, 2014.
- Eggerichs, Emerson. *Love & Respect in the Family*. Thomas Nelson, 2013.
- Fox, Annie. *The Teen Survival Guide to Dating & Relating. Real-World Advice for Teens on Guys, Girls, Growing Up, and Getting Along*. Free Spirit Publishing, 2005.
- Gurian, Michael and Kathy Stevens. *Boys and Girls Learn Differently*. Jossey-Bass, 2010.
- Gurian, Michael. *The Minds of Girls: A New Path for Raising Healthy, Resilient, and Successful Women*. Gurian Institute, 2017.
- . *Saving Our Sons: A New Path for Raising Healthy and Resilient Boys*. Gurian Institute, 2017.
- Hightower, Elaine, and Betsy Riley. *Our Family Meeting Book: Fun and Easy Ways to Manage Time, Build Communication, and Share Responsibility Week by Week*. Free Spirit Publishing, 2002.
- Jukes, Mavis. *The Guy Book: An Owner's Manual*. Crown Books for Young Readers, 2002.

Maisel, Eric. *20 Communication Tips for Families: A 30-Minute Guide to a Better Family Relationship*. New World Library, 2000.

McGraw, Jay. *Closing the Gap: A Strategy for Bringing Parents and Teens Together*. Touchstone, 2001.

———. *Life Strategies for Teens*. Touchstone, 2000.

Packer, Alex J. *The How Rude!™ Handbook of Family Manners for Teens*. Free Spirit Publishing, 2004.

———. *How Rude!™ The Teenagers' Guide to Good Manners, Proper Behavior, and Not Crossing People Out*. Free Spirit Publishing, 2014.

Perry, Philippa. *The Book You Wish Your Parents Had Read: (And Your Children Will Be Glad That You Did)*. Pamela Dorman Books, 2020.

Rosswood, Eric. *Journey to Same-Sex Parenthood: Firsthand Advice, Tips and Stories from Lesbian and Gay Couples*. New Horizon Press, 2016.

Organizations

American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences

400 N. Columbus St., Suite 202
Alexandria, VA 22314
Toll-free telephone: 800-424-8080
www.aafcs.org

American Red Cross

431 18th Street NW
Washington, DC 20006
Telephone: 202-303-4498
www.redcross.org

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431 18th Street NW
Washington, DC 20006
Telephone: 202-303-4498
www.redcross.org

Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America

1910 Association Drive
Reston, VA 20191-1584
Telephone: 703-476-4900
www.fcclainc.org

National Council on Family Relations

661 LaSalle Street, Suite 200
Saint Paul, MN 55114
Telephone: 888-781-9331
www.ncfr.org

Other Websites

Bright Horizons Family Solutions

www.brighthorizons.com/family-resources

KidsHelpLine

kidshelpline.com.au/