



Basketry

Scouts BSA · Hobbies

Name

Started

Completed

Basketry is one of the oldest crafts in the world, and it's relaxing and satisfying to make something useful with your own hands. This badge teaches you materials and weaves, then you'll make three projects. Take your time and your weaving will get neater with each one.

Requirements

Every official requirement, in plain language. Check the official wording when you sign off (scouting.org/merit-badges/basketry/). Tips and examples are ideas, not extra requirements.

1 Safety and first aid

Tips for this section: Think about cuts, splinters, and sore hands from tools and materials. Keep a small first aid kit nearby while you work.

Example for this section: Talk through real hazards: cuts from the knife or shears used to trim reed, splinters and sore fingers, and slips from a wet floor around the soaking tub. Show your counselor how you'd clean and cover a small cut.

- ☐ **1a** Explain to your counselor the hazards you're most likely to face with basketry tools and materials, and how to anticipate, prevent, reduce, and respond to them

- ☐ **1b** Discuss how to prevent and give first aid for injuries from basketry tools and materials, such as cuts, scratches, and scrapes

2 Basket types and weaves

Tips for this section: Look at real baskets or photos and sort them into plaited, coiled, ribbed, and wicker. Practice each weave on a scrap piece before starting a project.

Example for this section: Sort baskets from around your home, a craft store, or museum photos into plaited, coiled, ribbed, and wicker, and point out what gives each one away. Then weave three small test strips showing plain weave (over one, under one), twining, and a twill pattern (over two, under two, offset each row).

- ☐ **2a** Show your counselor you can tell apart plaited, coiled, ribbed, and wicker baskets

- ☐ **2b** Describe 3 kinds of weaves to your counselor

3 Weaving projects

Tips for this section: Start with the square basket, then move on to the round one and the seat. Soak materials as directed so they bend without cracking.

Example for this section: For the square basket, soak the reed for a few minutes until it bends without cracking, weave the base first, then turn up the spokes and keep each row snug. Save your round basket for second, once your hands know how tight to pull, and the campstool seat for last.

- ☐ **3a** Plan and weave a square basket

- ☐ **3b** Plan and weave a round basket

- ☐ **3c** Plan and weave a campstool seat