



# Bugling

Scouts BSA · Arts

Name

Started

Completed

The bugle has called soldiers and scouts to wake up, eat, and gather for generations. This badge teaches you to play the classic calls and to serve your troop as bugler. It takes practice, but hearing your call echo across camp is a great feeling.

## Requirements

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

### ☐ 1 Give a short history of the bugle

**Tip:** Look up how the bugle developed and where it has been used, such as in the military and in Scouting.

**Example:** A short history might cover how hunting horns became signal horns, how armies used bugle calls to send orders across noisy battlefields, and how Taps was adapted during the Civil War. End with how bugles came into Scouting at camps and ceremonies.

### 2 How the bugle works and your own call

**Tips for this section:** Practice buzzing your lips into the mouthpiece to feel how sound starts. Try writing a short call using the notes you can play.

**Example for this section:** Explain that your buzzing lips start the air vibrating and the tube makes it louder; tightening your lips and speeding the air moves you up to higher notes. For your own call, try a four-bar "Patrol Leaders Meet" call using just three notes you can play cleanly.

#### ☐ 2a Explain and show how a bugle produces sound, and explain how it's related to other brass wind instruments

- ☐ **2b** Write a bugle call your troop or patrol can use for a common group activity (like gathering for a meal or breaking camp), and play it for your unit or patrol

- ☐ **3** Play 10 calls from this list: Assembly, Call to Quarters, Church, Drill, Fatigue, Fire, First Call, Mess, Officers, Recall, Retreat, Reveille, Swimming, Taps, and To the Colors

**Tip:** Learn one call at a time. Short, daily practice works better than long sessions once a week.

- ☐ **4** Explain when each call from requirement 3 is used

**Tip:** Make a chart of each call and when it's used, and quiz yourself with a friend.

**Example:** Make a chart of the camp day: First Call before Reveille, Reveille to wake, Mess Call for meals, Assembly to gather, To the Colors and Retreat for flag raising and lowering, Call to Quarters before lights out, and Taps at day's end.

- ☐ **5** Explain how to take care of, clean, and maintain a bugle

**Tip:** Ask a band teacher to show you how to clean and care for a brass instrument.

- ☐ **6** Be your troop's bugler for 3 months

**Tip:** Work with your Scoutmaster to plan when you'll sound calls at meetings and campouts during your three months.

**Example:** Plan your three months with your Scoutmaster: sound To the Colors at the start of each meeting, Assembly to call patrols together, and a full day of calls on one or two campouts. Keep a log of dates and calls.