



# Communication

Scouts BSA · Citizenship · Eagle-required

Name

Started

Completed

Good communication helps you make friends, lead your patrol, and succeed in school and work. This badge builds your listening, speaking, and writing skills through real practice. You'll get more confident each time you speak up.

## Requirements

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

### 1 Observing how people communicate: Choose 1 of 4

**Tips for this section:** Try listening without interrupting during a conversation, then summarize what you heard. Notice body language too.

**Example for this section:** Keep a three-day listening journal and find one of each kind: a teacher explaining homework (to gain information), an ad for new shoes (to be persuaded), a favorite podcast (to enjoy), and a friend telling you about a rough day (to understand feelings). Note how you listened differently each time.

- ☐ **1a** For one day, log how you communicate and for how long: in person, listening to teachers, radio or podcasts, TV, social media, reading, and electronic devices; discuss with your counselor what the log shows about communication in your life and how you could improve your skills

- ☐ **1b** Keep a journal of your listening for three days; find one time you listened to gain information, to be persuaded, to enjoy something, and to understand someone's feelings, and discuss each with your counselor

- ☐ **1c** Meet in a small group with Scouts or friends who share personal stories about important events in their lives; note how each person takes part and how well they tell their story, then report to your counselor the differences you saw

- ☐ **1d** List as many ways to communicate as you can (face-to-face, phone, letter, email, text, social media, and more); for each, discuss with your counselor a time it might not work well or fit the situation

## 2 Presenting and persuading: Choose 1 of 2

**Tips for this section:** Be creative with a poster, video, or story about yourself. If persuading, pick a topic you care about and give strong reasons.

- ☐ **2a** Create something that describes you in a creative way, such as a collage, short story or autobiography, drawing, photo series, song, or skit, and use it to present yourself to your counselor

- ☐ **2b** Pick a concept, product, or service you strongly believe in and build a sales plan around its strengths; try to persuade your counselor to agree with, use, or buy it, then discuss how persuasive you were

☐ **3** Write a speech that runs five minutes and deliver it at a group's meeting

**Tip:** Choose a topic you know well. Practice in front of a mirror or family and time yourself.

**Example:** A five-minute speech might be "Why every Scout should learn to paddle a canoe": an opening story from summer camp, three reasons, and a closing challenge. Time yourself out loud twice; most people talk faster when nervous.

☐ **4** Interview someone you know, like, or respect for their position, talent, career, or life experiences, listening actively; then introduce them to your counselor as if they were a guest speaker, saying why an audience would want to hear them, and show how you'd phone to invite them

**Tip:** Prepare questions ahead of time. Listen closely and ask follow-up questions about what interests you.

**Example:** Interview a grandparent, coach, or neighbor about what their job was like when they started, with a parent present. Prepare five questions, but follow up on anything surprising: "Wait, you drove a forklift at 16?"

☐ **5** Attend a public meeting your counselor approves (such as a city council, school board, or debate) where several views on one issue are shared; listen actively, take careful notes, and give your counselor an objective report covering every view

**Tip:** Take notes on the different viewpoints shared. Report fairly, even on views you disagree with.

**Example:** At a city council or school board meeting, write down each speaker's main point on a topic like a new skate park. In your report, explain each side fairly, even the one you disagree with.

☐ **6** With your counselor's approval, plan how to teach someone a skill or inform them about something, make teaching aids, carry out the plan, and decide with your counselor whether the person learned what you intended

**Tip:** Pick a skill you know well. Use simple visual aids and let your learners try it themselves.

**Example:** Teach younger Scouts how to tie a bowline with a big rope and a drawing of the "rabbit and the tree." Plan 15 minutes: explain, show, let them try, then check each knot.

**7 Writing and publishing: Choose 1 of 3**

**Tips for this section:** Choose an option that fits your interests. Have a parent review your writing before you share or publish it.

- ☐ **7a** Send a letter (by email, fax, or regular mail) to a magazine or local newspaper editor sharing your opinion or information on a subject you pick

- ☐ **7b** Build a webpage or blog about an interest of yours, such as a sport, a hobby, or your troop or crew, with three or more articles or posts, at least one photo or illustration, and a link to another helpful site; you don't have to post it online, but if you do, show it to a parent or guardian and your counselor and get their permission first

- ☐ **7c** Use desktop publishing to make a newsletter, brochure, flyer, or other printed piece for your troop or crew, school class, or another group, with at least one article and one photo or illustration

- ☐ **8** Plan a court of honor or campfire program for your troop or crew, or an interfaith worship service; once the patrol leaders' council approves it, write the script, prepare the program, and act as master of ceremonies

**Tip:** Work with your Scoutmaster or chaplain aide to plan the program. Make a timed outline so it runs smoothly.

**Example:** For a court of honor, write a timed outline: opening flag ceremony (5 minutes), welcome, rank advancements, merit badges, special recognition, closing. List who does each part and what props you need.

- ☐ **9** Learn about three careers in communication; pick one, find out the education, training, and experience it needs, and discuss with your counselor why it might interest you

**Tip:** Look into jobs like journalist, teacher, or public relations specialist, and talk with someone in the field.