



Crime Prevention

Scouts BSA · Citizenship

Name

Started

Completed

Crime prevention is about keeping yourself, your family, and your community safe. This badge helps you understand why laws exist, how crimes are reported, and how people work together to prevent them. You'll learn practical ways to stay safe at home and online.

Requirements

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

1 Laws and society

Tips for this section: Talk with a parent about why we have laws and what might lead people to break them.

Example for this section: Pick a law you notice every day, like the speed limit near your school, and explain who it protects. Then talk about the difference between a misdemeanor and a felony, and why things like poverty or lack of support can raise crime risk.

- ☐ **1a** Talk with your counselor about why societies have criminal laws

- ☐ **1b** Talk with your counselor about kinds of crime, including environmental crime, white-collar crime, property crime, and crimes against people

- ☐ **1c** Talk with your counselor about the reasons people commit crimes

- ☐ **1d** Talk with your counselor about why everyone should obey the law even when nobody is looking

- ☐ **1e** Talk with your counselor about what crime prevention means

2 Groups that help prevent crime

Tips for this section: Look into how police, neighborhood watch groups, and schools work to prevent crime.

- ☐ **2a** Research how ordinary citizens, young people included, help prevent crime, and share what you find with your counselor

- ☐ **2b** Research how schools help prevent crime, and share what you find with your counselor

- ☐ **2c** Research how neighborhood, social, and civic groups (youth groups included) help prevent crime, and share what you find with your counselor

- ☐ **2d** Research how private security helps prevent crime, and share what you find with your counselor

- ☐ **2e** Research how law enforcement agencies help prevent crime, and share what you find with your counselor

- ☐ **2f** Research how the courts help prevent crime, and share what you find with your counselor

- ☐ **2g** Research how corrections and rehabilitation programs help prevent crime, and share what you find with your counselor

3 Crime in your community, state, and nation

Tips for this section: Check local news or your police department's website for crime trends. Learn how a case moves through the courts.

Example for this section: Over a few weeks, follow local news or your police department's posts and keep a list: car break-ins, vandalism, fraud. Then trace how one case might move from an arrest to a court date to a decision.

- ☐ **3a** With a parent's or guardian's permission and your counselor's approval, look up local, state, or national news stories about three crimes, each a different type, and find out how often those crimes happen in your state or the country

- ☐ **3b** Take notes on which police agencies and courts worked toward justice for the victims and the accused, why you think each crime happened, and what might prevent similar ones; go over your research with your counselor

4 Home and neighborhood crime prevention

Tips for this section: Walk around your home with a parent and check locks, lights, and windows. Make a list of improvements.

Example for this section: A home survey checklist might include: Do all doors have deadbolts? Are porch lights working? Are bushes trimmed so windows are visible? Are bikes locked? Share three fixes with your family and help with one.

4a Community life and design

- ☐ **4a1** Talk with your counselor about how being involved with families, churches, sports teams, and clubs helps keep crime down

- ☐ **4a2** Talk with your counselor about how the way parks, streets, stores, public buildings, neighborhoods, and houses are designed can prevent crime

- ☐ **4b** Under adult supervision and following youth protection guidelines, do a security survey of a home, neighborhood, park, or camp building, using the checklist in the Crime Prevention pamphlet or one your counselor approves

- ☐ **4c** Using your 4b survey and the EDGE method, create a lesson teaching a family or Scouts ways to guard themselves against crime; go over your teaching plan with your counselor, then teach it to your family or to Scouts

5 Retail crime prevention

Tips for this section: Ask a store manager how they prevent shoplifting and how it affects prices.

- ☐ **5a** Research how shoplifting, theft by employees (called shrinkage), and loss prevention affect a store's money, customer service, and reputation, and review it with your counselor

- ☐ **5b** Research the methods stores use to stop shoplifting and review them with your counselor

6 Reporting crime

Tips for this section: Talk with a parent about how to report a crime or abuse and which trusted adults you can go to.

Example for this section: Practice a 911 call with a parent: your address, what happened, who's hurt, and staying on the line. Also name a trusted adult you could tell if someone, even someone you know, makes you feel unsafe.

- ☐ **6a** Talk with your counselor about when and how to report a crime, including one that's about to happen

- ☐ **6b** Talk with your counselor about warning signs of domestic violence and child abuse and how to report such situations

- ☐ **6c** Talk with your counselor about how to use the three R's of personal safety and protection

- ☐ **6d** Talk with your counselor about how reporting crimes helps police get resources to crime victims

7 Peers and crime

Tips for this section: Think about ways to handle peer pressure and stand up to bullying. Practice what you might say.

Example for this section: Role-play with a friend: someone pressures you to post a mean comment about a classmate. Practice a short answer like "Nah, that's not funny," walking away, and telling an adult if it keeps happening.

- ☐ **7a** Talk with your counselor about the part friends and peers play in committing crime, preventing it, and being affected by it

- ☐ **7b** Talk with your counselor about ways to stand up to pressure from peers

- ☐ **7c** Talk with your counselor about bullying and hazing, and the signs a friend might be bullying you or another person

- ☐ **7d** Talk with your counselor about how gangs affect communities

8 Substance use and crime

Tips for this section: Talk with a trusted adult about how drug and alcohol use can lead to crime and other problems.

- ☐ **8a** Talk with your counselor about the legal and health effects of using illegal drugs, misused (diverted) prescription drugs, alcohol, and tobacco or vaping products

- ☐ **8b** Talk with your counselor about how substance use leads to violence and property crime and makes a person more likely to become a crime victim

- ☐ **8c** Talk with your counselor about how programs for drug abuse awareness, prevention, and recovery help reduce crime

- ☐ **8d** Talk with your counselor about where to turn if you or someone you know has a problem with alcohol or drugs

9 Online crime

Tips for this section: Learn the signs of online scams. Never share passwords or personal information online.

Example for this section: Bring two real-looking scam messages, like a fake prize text or a "your account is locked" email, and point out the warning signs: urgency, odd links, requests for passwords or gift cards.

- ☐ **9a** Talk with your counselor about how to keep from becoming a victim of crime online

- ☐ **9b** Talk with your counselor about common online money scams

- ☐ **9c** Talk with your counselor about what good online security looks like

- ☐ **9d** Talk with your counselor about identity theft and ways to prevent it

- ☐ **9e** Talk with your counselor about how criminals use social media to find victims

- ☐ **9f** Talk with your counselor about how bullying, texting, and sharing photos can turn into crimes

- ☐ **10** With your counselor's approval and a parent's or guardian's permission, interview a police officer or civil servant about their crime prevention work, why they chose this career, and what their duties are; discuss what you learned with your counselor

Tip: Contact your local police department to set up a talk. Prepare questions about their job ahead of time.

- ☐ **11** Name three careers that use crime prevention skills and knowledge; pick one and research its training, education, certification, experience, and costs to get started, plus job outlook, starting pay, and advancement; then tell your counselor what you learned and whether it interests you

Tip: Look into jobs like police officer, detective, lawyer, or security specialist.