



Landscape Architecture

Scouts BSA · Careers

Name

Started

Completed

Landscape architects design the outdoor places people use every day, like parks, playgrounds, and campuses. You'll visit a real project, learn some plants, and sketch ideas to make a space better. It's a mix of art, nature, and problem-solving.

Requirements

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

- ☐ **1** Visit a finished landscape project designed by a landscape architect. Before you go, ask the landscape architect for a copy of the design plan, if there is one

Tip: Ask your counselor or a city parks department to suggest a park or plaza that has a plan you can look at while you walk around.

Example: Visit a neighborhood park with a copy of its plan. Walk the site and match what's on paper to what's on the ground: the path layout, the playground, the planted beds. Notice anything that changed after it was built.

2 Discuss the site you visited (after requirement 1)

Tips for this section: As you explore, notice where people sit, walk, and gather. Ask yourself what makes the space comfortable or uncomfortable.

Example for this section: Talk about how the space works: a shade structure over the benches, a curved path that slows people down, trees placed to block wind, and plantings that stay green in summer. Explain what feels comfortable and what doesn't.

- ☐ **2a** After your requirement 1 visit, tell your counselor whether the design had distinct spaces, a clear entry point, an easy-to-follow path system, and a mix of sun and shade

- ☐ **2b** Discuss how any buildings or structures and the areas set aside for sitting, eating, or parking fit the overall design

- ☐ **2c** Explain how the design took into account users' comfort, shelter, and safety

- ☐ **2d** Discuss how the trees, shrubs, and ground covers chosen for the project added to how it looks and works

- ☐ **3** With help from your counselor or a local nursery, pick 5 trees, 5 shrubs, and 1 ground cover that grow in your area and vary in shape, size, and texture. Show pictures or samples (branches, leaves, flowers) to your troop, class, or a similar group, and tell how you'd use and maintain each in a landscape

Tip: Take photos of plant leaves and bark around your neighborhood, then match them using a field guide or a nursery's labels.

Example: Make an ID card for each plant: a photo of the leaf and the whole plant, its name, how big it gets, and where you found it. For ground cover, look for things like creeping juniper or pachysandra in planted beds.

- ☐ **4** With permission from whoever is in charge, study the grounds of a place of worship, school, or public building and find where most people arrive by car or bus. Then do 4a–4c

Tip: Ask permission to study the main entrance of a school, place of worship, or public building where people arrive by car or bus. Measure it, draw it from above, and mark where water runs before you add your ideas.

Example: Measure your school entrance, draw it to scale from above, and mark where people walk, where water puddles, and where the sun hits. Then add your ideas, like a bench in the shade and a rain garden by the downspout.

- ☐ **4a** Measure the main site entrance and the area around it with a tape and draw it to a stated scale, including the driveway, the walk to the main door, and any sidewalks, structures, plants, lights, drains, utilities, or site furniture. Make 2 copies and keep the original

- ☐ **4b** On one copy of your plan, draw arrows showing which way water drains across the site, and mark any ditches and places where water stands for a long time

- ☐ **4c** Decide how to make the area safer and more comfortable for its users, and redesign it on the other copy. Ideas include new walks, covered waiting spots, benches, trees and shrubs that define spaces, and drainage structures

- ☐ **5** Identify 3 careers that use landscape architecture skills. Pick one and research its training, education, certification, experience, and startup costs, plus job outlook, starting pay, and advancement. Talk it over with your counselor, including whether it interests you

Tip: Interview a landscape architect or look up what they study in college and what kinds of projects they work on.

Example: Look up how to become a landscape architect: the degree, the internship time, and the licensing exam. Compare it with related jobs like landscape designer, urban planner, and park planner.