



Moviemaking

Scouts BSA · Arts

Name

Started

Completed

Moviemaking turns an idea into a story people can watch and feel. You'll plan, film, and edit your own short movie. All you need is a phone or simple camera and some imagination.

Requirements

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

- ☐ **1** Discuss and demonstrate what makes a good movie, including visual storytelling, rhythm, the 180-degree rule, camera movement, shot framing and composition, and lens choice

Tip: Watch a favorite movie and pay attention to the story, camera angles, sound, and music. Which parts made it work for you?

Example: Pick a movie you know well and break down one scene: what the story beat is, how the camera moves, what the lighting feels like, how the music and sound effects build tension, and why the editor cut where they did.

2 Plan and shoot your film

Tips for this section: Keep your first film short and simple. Draw quick stick-figure storyboards and get friends or family to act or help with the camera.

Example for this section: Write a three- or four-paragraph treatment that paints the picture: "A Scout loses the troop's only compass the night before a hike and has to retrace their day to find it." Then draw six to ten storyboard frames and shoot a short film of a few minutes.

- ☐ **2a** Write a three- or four-paragraph treatment of the story you'll film that paints a clear visual picture

- ☐ **2b** Make a storyboard for your film (rough sketches and stick figures are fine)

2c Shooting techniques

- ☐ **2c1** Demonstrate shooting with a tripod

- ☐ **2c2** Demonstrate panning the camera

- ☐ **2c3** Demonstrate framing a shot

- ☐ **2c4** Demonstrate choosing a camera angle

- ☐ **2c5** Demonstrate choosing the right lighting

- ☐ **2c6** Demonstrate handheld shooting

2d Make and present a program: Choose 1 of 3

- ☐ **2d1** Starting with a treatment, plan and film a court of honor using the techniques you learned, and show it to an audience such as your class, patrol, troop, or a pack

- ☐ **2d2** Starting with a treatment, plan and make your own short feature film with the techniques you learned, then present it to your class, patrol, troop, or a pack

- ☐ **2d3** Starting with a treatment, plan and shoot a short vignette that could teach a new Scout a Scouting skill, then present it to your class, patrol, troop, or a pack

3 Production studio or zoom lens: Choose 1 of 2

Tips for this section: If you can't visit a set, look closely at a camera with a zoom lens and learn what its main parts do, like the zoom ring, the focus ring, and the aperture.

Example for this section: If you can't visit a set, use a camera with a zoom lens to show how zooming in narrows the view and makes the background look closer. Point out three parts, like the glass lens elements, the zoom ring, and the aperture, and explain what each does.

- ☐ **3a** With a parent's or guardian's permission and your counselor's OK, visit a film set or TV studio and watch how production is done

- ☐ **3b** Explain to your counselor how a zoom lens works and three of its important parts

4 Careers or hobbies: Choose 1 of 2

Tips for this section: Look into jobs like editor, sound designer, or director, or join a school film or theater club.

Example for this section: Look into jobs beyond director, like editor, cinematographer, sound mixer, gaffer, and production assistant. Pick one, find out the training, and try that role on a friend's or classmate's film.

- ☐ **4a** Research one career related to moviemaking: training and education, costs, job outlook, pay, duties, and advancement. With a parent's or guardian's OK you may search online or at a library, interview a pro, or visit a workplace. Discuss your findings with your counselor and what makes the career appealing

- ☐ **4b** Explore how you could turn this badge's skills into a hobby or a healthy lifestyle. Look into needed training, costs, and supporting groups, and talk with your counselor about short- and long-term goals you might set