



Public Speaking

Scouts BSA · Citizenship

Name

Started

Completed

Public speaking helps you share your ideas with confidence. You'll give several talks, from short and unplanned to longer and researched. Every speech gets easier, and these skills help in school, jobs, and leadership.

Requirements

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

- ☐ **1** Introduce yourself for three to five minutes to a group, such as your troop, a school class, or another audience

Tip: Practice in front of a mirror or your family, and time yourself to stay within the limit.

Example: Plan three parts: where you're from and your family or school life, what you love doing (like fishing or drawing), and something you're working toward. Open with a quick story instead of "Hi, my name is," and practice until it lands between 3 and 5 minutes.

- ☐ **2** Prepare a three- to five-minute talk on any topic you like that uses body language and visual aids

Tip: Pick a topic you love and use simple visuals like a poster, slides, or a real object.

Example: Teach how to pack a backpack for a weekend campout using the real pack as your visual aid. Pull out each item as you explain where it goes and why, and end with a quick recap.

- ☐ **3** Give an unprepared talk of two minutes or more, in a group discussion or to your counselor, on a topic your counselor picks that interests you but you don't know ahead of time

Tip: Ask a friend to give you a random topic, then take a breath, pick two or three points, and start talking.

Example: When you're handed a topic like "your favorite meal," use a simple frame: make a point, give a reason, share an example, and restate the point. Practice by having a family member draw topics from a jar.

- ☐ **4** Choose a subject your audience will find interesting, gather and organize facts on it, and outline it. Then write a speech of eight to 10 minutes, practice it, and give it in a conversational way

Tip: Make an outline first, then practice out loud several times. Record yourself to see what to improve.

Example: Research a topic like how search dogs find lost hikers. Outline an opening hook, three main points with facts, and a strong close. Practice out loud at least five times and record one run to catch filler words.

- ☐ **5** Show you understand parliamentary procedure by either running a discussion or meeting with accepted rules of order or answering questions about those rules

Tip: Learn basic motions and voting, then run a patrol meeting or club meeting using them.

Example: Run a patrol meeting to choose the next campout: call it to order, take a motion ("I move we camp at the lake"), get a second, allow discussion, take an amendment, and call the vote. Keep notes on what happened.