



Scouting Heritage

Scouts BSA · Hobbies

Name

Started

Completed

Scouting Heritage connects you to more than a century of Scouts who came before you. You will learn how Scouting started, dig into the history of your own troop or council, and hear stories from people who were Scouts long ago. It's history you can actually touch.

Requirements

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

- ☐ **1** With your counselor, discuss Baden-Powell's life and times and why he thought Scouting would benefit boys of his era. Cover how Scouting came to the US and how he began Boy Scouting and Cub Scouting

Tip: Read a short biography of Baden-Powell and note a few things from his life that shaped Scouting.

Example: Make a short timeline of Baden-Powell's life: his army service in Africa, the siege of Mafeking, the experimental camp on Brownsea Island in 1907, and the book Scouting for Boys. Then explain which experiences you think shaped the Scout program the most.

2 Scouting's founders and landmarks

Tips for this section: Pick two early leaders and two of the listed landmarks, like Brownsea Island or the Scouts BSA Handbook, and jot down why each mattered.

Example for this section: You might pick William D. Boyce and Ernest Thompson Seton from the list of people, and Brownsea Island and the first World Scout Jamboree from the list of landmarks. For each, write three sentences: who or what, when, and why it still matters to your troop.

- ☐ **2a** Pick two of these people. For each, give a brief life story and tell how they helped Scouting take root and grow in the US (choose 2 of 9 below)

- ☐ **2a1** Daniel Carter Beard

☐ **2a2** William D. Boyce

☐ **2a3** Waite Phillips

☐ **2a4** Ernest Thompson Seton

☐ **2a5** James E. West

☐ **2a6** "Green Bar Bill" Hillcourt

☐ **2a7** Frederick Russell Burnham

☐ **2a8** Dr. Charles Eastman

☐ **2a9** Edgar Robinson

☐ **2b** Pick two of these and discuss why each is important to Scouting (choose 2 of 4 below)

☐ **2b1** Brownsea Island

☐ **2b2** The first World Scout Jamboree

☐ **2b3** The Scouts BSA Handbook

☐ **2b4** Scout Life magazine (once called Boys' Life)

☐ **3** Talk with your counselor about how Scouting's programs changed over the years to suit different ages and interests, including Cub Scouting, Scouts BSA, Exploring, and Venturing

Tip: Compare an old handbook with today's, or ask an older leader how programs have changed.

4 See Scouting history firsthand: Choose 1 of 3

Tips for this section: Check whether your council has a museum or Scouting history display, or write to the National Scouting Museum. If you're headed to a national or world jamboree or a high-adventure base, keep a daily journal while you're there.

- ☐ **4a** Attend a World Scout Jamboree, a Scouting America National Jamboree, or one of the national high-adventure bases and keep a daily journal there. When you're back, tell your counselor about your experience and what you learned (photos, brochures, and papers are welcome)

- ☐ **4b** Visit or write to the National Scouting Museum to get information about it, then briefly report what role you think the museum plays in Scouting

- ☐ **4c** Visit a Scouting memorabilia exhibit or a museum with a Scouting history display, or (with a parent's or guardian's permission and your counselor's OK) meet a respected council historian or collector. Learn about Scouting America's history and give your counselor a short report

- ☐ **5** Research how your unit, council, summer camp, or OA lodge began and grew (with a parent's or guardian's permission, using online or library searches, leader interviews, or site visits). Share it as an oral or written report, presentation, or video and review it with your counselor

Tip: Look through old troop scrapbooks, ask longtime members, or check with your council for records about your unit or camp.

Example: Build a one-page history of your troop: the year it was chartered, its chartered organization, past Scoutmasters, memorable trips, and a list of its Eagle Scouts. Old rosters, newsletters, and photo albums are good places to start.

- ☐ **6** Put together a collection of your own patches and other Scouting keepsakes; with permission you may add items or photos borrowed from past Scouts in your family or among friends. Show your counselor and explain what you learned about the items (any size collection is fine)

Tip: Start with patches from your own unit and camps, then ask older family members if they have Scouting items to share.

Example: Your collection could focus on one theme, like every summer camp patch from your council, or the history of one kind of badge. Mount items on a board with short labels that tell when and where each came from.

- ☐ **7** Build the gear for a Scouting game from the early days, like those played at Brownsea Island, chosen from the pamphlet or found yourself with your counselor's OK. Teach the game to other Scouts and play it together

Tip: Look in the pamphlet for games from Scouting's early days, like the ones played at Brownsea Island, or find one yourself and check it with your counselor. Then build the simple equipment and teach the game to your patrol.

Example: Pick an old-time game such as Kim's Game, a knot relay, or a signaling race. Build the equipment from simple materials like a tray of small objects or homemade flags, then run the game at a patrol meeting.

- ☐ **8** Interview at least three former Scouts over age 40 (not people you interviewed for requirement 5) about their Scouting experiences and how Scouting affected their lives. Tell your counselor what you found out

Tip: Ask your unit for help finding former Scouts. Prepare a few questions about what Scouting was like for them.

Example: Ask each person the same few questions so you can compare: what their uniform looked like, a campout they still remember, what was hard, and what Scouting taught them. Do the interviews with a parent or another adult present, in person or on a call.

9 Careers: Choose 1 of 2

Tips for this section: Ask a council professional how they turned Scouting into a career, or ask a longtime volunteer how they got started serving at the district or council level.

- ☐ **9a** Explore careers linked to Scouting. Research one for its education and training, costs, job outlook, pay, duties, and advancement (with a parent's or guardian's permission, by searching, interviewing a professional, or visiting a workplace). Discuss your findings and its appeal with your counselor

- ☐ **9b** Explore how this badge's knowledge and skills could help you volunteer in Scouting. Look into training, expenses, and ways to serve at the unit, district, council, regional, or national level, and discuss short- and long-term goals with your counselor