



Sculpture

Scouts BSA · Arts

Name

Started

Completed

Sculpture lets you turn an idea into something you can hold and see from every side. You will work with real materials and tools, try different techniques, and finish two pieces of your own. There is no single right way to make art, so have fun with it.

Requirements

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

- ☐ **1** Explain to your counselor the safety precautions for using a sculptor's tools, equipment, and materials

Tip: Before starting, learn how to use each tool and material safely and keep your workspace clean.

Example: For each tool and material you plan to use, know one safety rule: carve away from your body, keep clay dust down by wiping with a damp cloth instead of sweeping, wear eye protection when chipping, and wash your hands after handling clay or plaster.

2 Sculpting projects and art visits: Choose 2 of 3

Tips for this section: Start with clay or another easy material. Look at reference photos and take your time shaping your two projects.

Example for this section: One plan: for 2a, model a life-size head in clay over a few sessions, building the skull shape first and then adding the nose, eyes, and ears, then sculpt a small animal. For 2b, make a plaster mold of an apple or a pepper and use it to cast a copy.

- ☐ **2a** Model a life-size human head in clay. Then make a small-scale animal or person by sculpting modeling clay, carving wood or plaster, or using 3D modeling software, and explain your method and tools to your counselor

- ☐ **2b** Cast a copy of a fruit or vegetable using a plaster mold you make of it, then walk your counselor through the steps and tools you used

- ☐ **2c** With your counselor's OK and a parent's or guardian's permission, visit a museum, art exhibit or gallery, artist co-op, or an artist's workspace. Afterward, share what you learned and discuss how visual art builds social tolerance and helps cultural, intellectual, and personal growth

3 Careers and hobbies: Choose 1 of 2

Tips for this section: Visit an art museum or gallery, or talk with an art teacher about how artists make sculpture a career or hobby.

Example for this section: Compare two paths: an artist who sells their own work, and someone who uses sculpting in another job, like a prop maker or museum conservator. Ask what training they had and what a normal workday looks like.

- ☐ **3a** Explore careers tied to this badge. 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

- ☐ **3b** Explore how this badge's knowledge and skills could become a hobby. Research the training, expenses, and groups that support it, and discuss short- and long-term goals with your counselor