



Theater

Scouts BSA · Arts

Name

Started

Completed

Theater is about telling stories on stage, and it takes many people working together. You will watch and review plays, write one of your own, and try a role in a production. Whether you love the spotlight or prefer working backstage, there's a place for you.

Requirements

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

- ☐ **1** See or read three full-length plays and write a review of each. Discuss each plot with your counselor, and if you watched them, comment on the acting and staging. Plays seen on TV, video, or film don't count

Tip: Check your school or community theater for shows, or borrow plays from the library. Jot down what you liked and why.

Example: For each play, write a short review: what the story was about, a moment that worked really well, something you would change, and how the set, lights, or costumes helped tell the story.

- ☐ **2** Write a one-act play that runs at least 10 minutes, with a main character, a conflict, and a climax

Tip: Start with a simple idea and a few characters. Read your play aloud to family to check the timing.

Example: Start with two characters who want different things, like siblings arguing over who gets the last spot on a camping trip. Write a beginning, a turning point, and an ending, then read it aloud with a timer to check the length.

- ☐ **3** Discuss with your counselor the safety steps that protect cast and crew in a theater, then do **THREE** of the options below (choose 3 of 10 below)

Tip: Join a school or community show as an actor or crew member, and learn the safety rules backstage.

Example: Pick three that fit you, like acting in a play, helping build and paint scenery, and running lights or sound for a show. Learn the backstage safety rules, like never walking under the fly system during a scene change and keeping exits clear.

- ☐ **3a** Play a major role in a full-length play, or play a part in three one-act plays

- ☐ **3b** Direct a play of at least 10 minutes: cast it, rehearse it, and stage it

- ☐ **3c** Design a set for a play or theater production and build a model of it

- ☐ **3d** Design costumes for five characters in a production set in a past historical period

- ☐ **3e** Show hair and makeup design skill: as directed, turn yourself or a friend into a historical figure, clown, extraterrestrial, or monster

- ☐ **3f** With your counselor's OK, help build and paint scenery for a production

- ☐ **3g** With your counselor's OK, design a play's lighting, or help install, focus, color, program, and run lighting for a production

- ☐ **3h** With your counselor's OK, help install, focus, equalize, program, and run sound for a production

- ☐ **3i** Be stage manager for a production, recording every cue and stage setup in your calling script

- ☐ **3j** Be the musical director for a musical production

4 Mime or pantomime a scene your counselor picks: Choose 1 of 6

Tips for this section: Practice in front of a mirror, showing actions and feelings without words.

Example for this section: Your counselor picks the scene from a short list, so practice a few of them, like boarding a bus after dropping your books or eating a banquet vegetable you dislike, without any props or words. Use a mirror to check that every movement is clear and that your face shows how you feel.

- ☐ **4a** Entering a big room full of pictures, furniture, and other interesting things

- ☐ **4b** Dropping your books in a puddle while boarding a bus, which leaves before you pick them up

- ☐ **4c** Explaining a failed school test to a teacher who doesn't believe your story

- ☐ **4d** Helping a slow-learning new Scout at camp pass a cooking test

- ☐ **4e** Eating at a banquet: good meat, a vegetable you dislike, and ice cream for dessert

- ☐ **4f** Doing a routine as a circus performer, like a juggler, lion tamer, or high-wire artist

- ☐ **5** Explain these terms: center stage, central (arena) staging, cyclorama, downstage, flies, floodlight, ground plans, lighting control board, portal, proscenium arch, sightlines, sound mixing desk, spotlight, stage brace, stage crew, stage left, stage right, thrust staging, and upstage

Tip: Make flash cards of stage terms and use them while watching a rehearsal.