



# Truck Transportation

Scouts BSA · Careers

Name

Started

Completed

Truck Transportation shows how goods get from factories and farms to your store shelves. You will learn how trucking companies work, visit a terminal, and plan a real shipment. It's a big, important industry that keeps everything moving.

## Requirements

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

- ☐ **1** List the major trucking companies that serve your town

**Tip:** Look for company names on trucks around town and ask local businesses which carriers they use.

**2 Trucks and commerce**

**Tips for this section:** Pick an item in your home and trace how it might have traveled by truck to reach you.

**Example for this section:** Trace a box of cereal: grain trucked from a farm to a mill, then to a factory, then to a warehouse, then to a grocery store. Explain what would happen to store shelves if trucks stopped for a week.

- ☐ **2a** Describe how trucking fits into commerce, the movement of goods, money, and information

- ☐ **2b** Describe where trucks fit in a company's supply chain, such as a manufacturer, importer, wholesaler, or retailer

- ☐ **2c** On paper, map how goods made overseas travel to a store in this country

- ☐ **3** Describe how gasoline and diesel truck engines differ, and list the advantages of each

**Tip:** Ask a mechanic or truck driver to explain how gasoline and diesel engines differ.

**Example:** Make a side-by-side chart: diesel engines use compression to ignite fuel and have lots of pulling power, while gasoline engines use spark plugs. Ask a mechanic why most big trucks use diesel.

- ☐ **4** Visit a truck terminal and do 4a-4e, then share what you learned with your counselor

**Tip:** Arrange a visit to a truck terminal with your counselor and write down what you see.

**Example:** During the terminal visit, take notes on how freight is unloaded, sorted, and reloaded, what the dispatchers do, and how trucks are inspected. Write a one-page report with the three things that surprised you most.

- ☐ **4a** Find out how the company's maintenance program keeps its trucks, drivers, and roads safe

- ☐ **4b** Find out how dispatchers stay in touch with drivers on the road

- ☐ **4c** Talk with a professional truck driver about safety and the driver's rules of the road, then list five safe-driving rules every professional driver must follow

- ☐ **4d** Look over a driver's log and find out what information it holds

- ☐ **4e** Learn about key federal regulations that protect public safety

## 5 Trucking companies

**Tips for this section:** Ask at the terminal about the jobs people do, from drivers to dispatchers.

- ☐ **5a** Outline how a trucking company is organized and describe what each department does

- ☐ **5b** List and describe five jobs at trucking companies

- ☐ **6** Name five government agencies that work closely with trucking and describe what each does

**Tip:** Look up government agencies that set rules for trucking.

- ☐ **7** List five kinds of trucks and the service each provides

**Tip:** Watch traffic on a highway and count different kinds of trucks.

**Example:** Five kinds could be a tractor-trailer hauling dry goods, a refrigerated truck for food, a tanker for fuel or milk, a flatbed for lumber or steel, and a box truck for local deliveries.

- ☐ **8** Imagine shipping 500 pounds of goods (freight class 65) by truck to a town 500 miles away, arriving within three days. Explain in writing each step below

**Tip:** Look up three carriers and compare their rates and delivery times for your shipment.

**Example:** Plan to ship 500 pounds of camping gear to a camp 500 miles away within three days. Write how you'd pack and label it, get quotes from three carriers and compare their rates and transit times, choose one, and insure the load against damage.

- ☐ **8a** How you'd prepare the shipment

- ☐ **8b** How you'd compare at least three carriers on transit time and rates

- ☐ **8c** How you'd pick the carrier

- ☐ **8d** How you'd insure the shipment against damage

- ☐ **9** Explain these terms: bill of lading, carrier, cartage, consignee, containers, drayage, ETA, intermodal, logbook, shippers, and tariff

**Tip:** Make a list of trucking terms you hear during your visit and look up what they mean.

- ☐ **10** Explore careers in truck transportation. Research one: training, education, costs, job outlook, pay, duties, and advancement (searches, interviews, or visits need a parent's or guardian's OK). Discuss with your counselor what you found and what makes it interesting to you

**Tip:** Talk with someone in trucking about their job and what they like about it.