



# Pioneering

## Merit Badge Workbook



This workbook can help you but you still need to read the merit badge pamphlet.

This Workbook can help you organize your thoughts as you prepare to meet with your merit badge counselor.

You still must satisfy your counselor that you can demonstrate each skill and have learned the information. You should use the work space provided for each requirement to keep track of which requirements have been completed, and to make notes for discussing the item with your counselor, not for providing full and complete answers.

If a requirement says that you must take an action using words such as "discuss", "show", "tell", "explain", "demonstrate", "identify", etc, that is what you must do.

**Merit Badge Counselors may not require the use of this or any similar workbooks.**

No one may add or subtract from the official requirements found in Boy Scout Requirements (Pub. 33216 – SKU 637685).

The requirements were last issued or revised in 2014 • This workbook was updated in June 2017.

Scout's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Counselor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Counselor's Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_

<http://www.USScouts.Org> • <http://www.MeritBadge.Org>

Please submit errors, omissions, comments or suggestions about this **workbook** to: [Workbooks@USScouts.Org](mailto:Workbooks@USScouts.Org)  
 Comments or suggestions for changes to the **requirements** for the **merit badge** should be sent to: [Merit.Badge@Scouting.Org](mailto:Merit.Badge@Scouting.Org)

1. Do the following:
  - a. Explain to your counselor the most likely hazards you might encounter while participating in pioneering activities and what you should do to anticipate, help prevent, mitigate, and respond to these hazards.

Hazards:


What you should do :

Anticipate


Prevent


Mitigate


Respond


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- b. Discuss the prevention of, and first aid treatment for, injuries and conditions that could occur while working on pioneering projects, including rope splinters, rope burns, cuts, scratches, insect bites and stings, hypothermia, dehydration, heat exhaustion, heatstroke, sunburn, and falls.

Rope splinters:


Rope burns


Cuts:


Scratches:


Insect bites  
and stings:


Hypothermia:


Dehydration:


Heat  
Exhaustion:


Heat Stroke:


Sunburn:


Falls:




4. Explain the differences between synthetic ropes and natural-fiber ropes.

Synthetic ropes


Natural-fiber ropes


Discuss which types of rope are suitable for pioneering work and why. Include the following in your discussion: breaking strength, safe working loads, and the care and storage of rope.

Type of rope:

Why suitable:

Breaking strength

Safe working loads

Care & storage


Type of rope:

Why suitable:

Breaking strength

Safe working loads

Care & storage


Type of rope:

Why suitable:

Breaking strength

Safe working loads

Care & storage

Type of rope:

Why suitable:

Breaking strength

Safe working loads

Care & storage

Type of rope:

Why suitable:

Breaking strength

Safe working loads

Care & storage

5. Explain the uses for the back splice, eye splice, and short splice.

Back splice:


Eye splice:


Short splice:


Using 1/4- or 3/8-inch three-stranded rope, demonstrate how to form each splice.

Back splice

Eye splice

Short splice

6. Using a rope-making device or machine, make a rope at least 6 feet long consisting of three strands, each having three yarns.

Whip the ends.

7. Explain the importance of effectively anchoring a pioneering project.


Describe to your counselor the 1-1-1 anchoring system and the log-and-stake anchoring methods.


- 8. With the approval of your counselor, demonstrate and use a rope tackle. Be sure the rope tackle is secured properly.

Explain the advantages and limitations of using a rope tackle.

Advantages:


Limitations:


Describe the potential damage that friction can do to a rope..


**All pioneering projects constructed for this merit badge must comply with height standards as outlined in the Guide to Safe Scouting.**

- 9. By yourself, build a trestle using square and diagonal lashings.

Explain why trestles are used when constructing pioneering projects.


- 10. With the approval of your counselor and using appropriate lashings and pioneering techniques, build and use one full-size pioneering project from either group A or group B. Your project must comply with the requirements of the Guide to Safe Scouting. (Requirement 10 may be done at summer camp, at district or council events, or on a troop camp outing.)

Group A: Tower OR bridge

Anchor your project as appropriate and necessary. Explain how your anchoring system works.

Group A projects may be worked on in a group and with others.

Group B: Camp chair OR camp table

Group B projects must be worked on individually.

Project selected:


Counselor's approval:

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Date:

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**When working on merit badges, Scouts and Scouters should be aware of some vital information in the current edition of the *Guide to Advancement* (BSA publication 33088). Important excerpts from that publication can be downloaded from <http://usscouts.org/advance/docs/GTA-Excerpts-meritbadges.pdf>. You can download a complete copy of the *Guide to Advancement* from <http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33088.pdf>.**