



Signs, Signals, and Codes Merit Badge

SCOUTS PARTICIPATING IN A SCOUTMASTER BUCKY MERIT BADGE OPPORTUNITY (ONLINE OR IN PERSON), PLEASE CONSIDER ALSO USING THE SIGNS, SIGNALS, AND CODES MERIT BADGE CLASS PREPARATION PAGE FOR CLARIFICATIONS, INSIGHTS, AND EXPECTATIONS.

<https://scoutmasterbucky.com/merit-badges/signs-signals-and-codes/signs-signals-and-codes-cpp.pdf>

SIGNS, SIGNALS, AND CODES MERIT BADGE WORKBOOK

REQUIREMENT 1: Discuss with your counselor the importance of signs, signals, and codes.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 1: Discuss with your counselor why people need these different methods of communication.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 1: Briefly discuss the history and development of signs, signals, and codes.

Notes:



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REQUIREMENT 2: Explain the importance of signaling in emergency communications.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 2: Discuss with your counselor the types of emergency or distress signals one might use to attract airborne search-and-rescue personnel if lost in the outdoors or trying to summon assistance during a disaster.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 2: Illustrate these signaling examples by the use of photos or drawings.

Notes:



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A ● —

B — ● ● ●

C — ● — ●

D — ● ●

E ●

F ● ● — ●

G — — ●

H ● ● ● ●

I ● ●

J ● — — —

K — ● —

L ● — ● ●

M — —

N — ●

O — — —

P ● — — ●

Q — — ● —

R ● — ●

S ● ● ●

T —

U ● ● —

V ● ● ● —

W ● — —

X — ● ● —

Y — ● — —

Z — — ● ●

REQUIREMENT 3a: Describe what Morse code is.

Notes:



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REQUIREMENT 3a: Describe the various means by which Morse code can be sent.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 3a: Spell your first name using Morse code.

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.

Name:

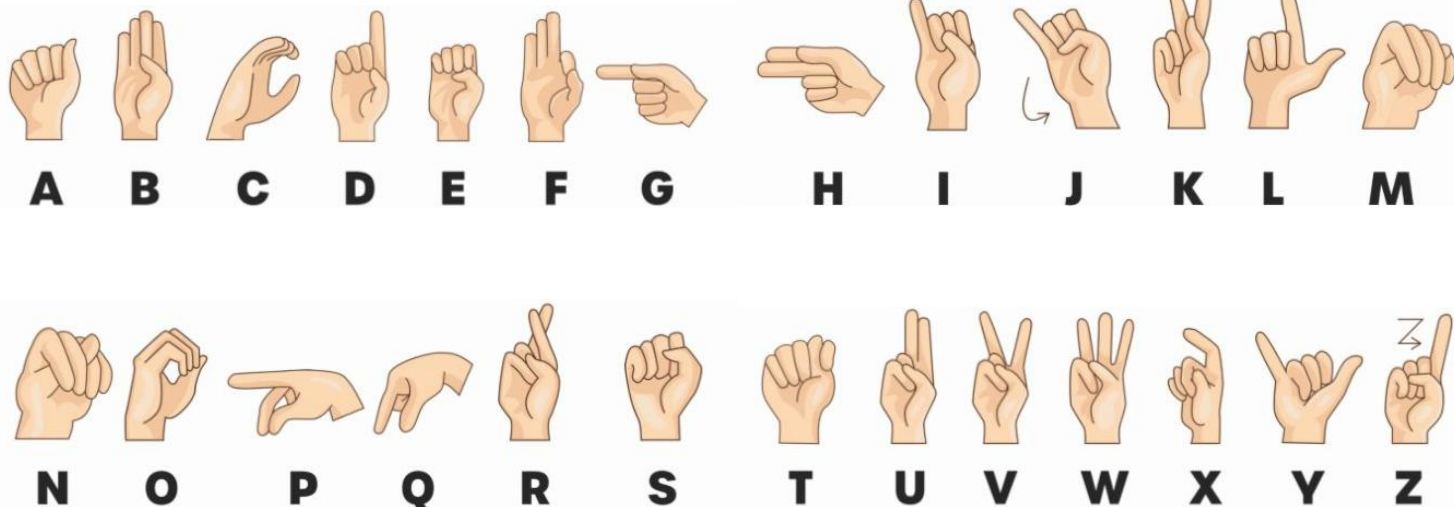
REQUIREMENT 3a: Send or receive a message of six to 10 words using Morse code.

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.

Notes:



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REQUIREMENT 3b: Describe what American Sign Language (ASL) is

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 3b: Describe how American Sign Language (ASL) is used today.

Notes:



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REQUIREMENT 3b: Spell your first name using American Sign Language.

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.

Name:

REQUIREMENT 3b: Describe what American Sign Language (ASL) is and how it is used today. Spell your first name using American Sign Language. Send or receive a message of six to 10 words using ASL.

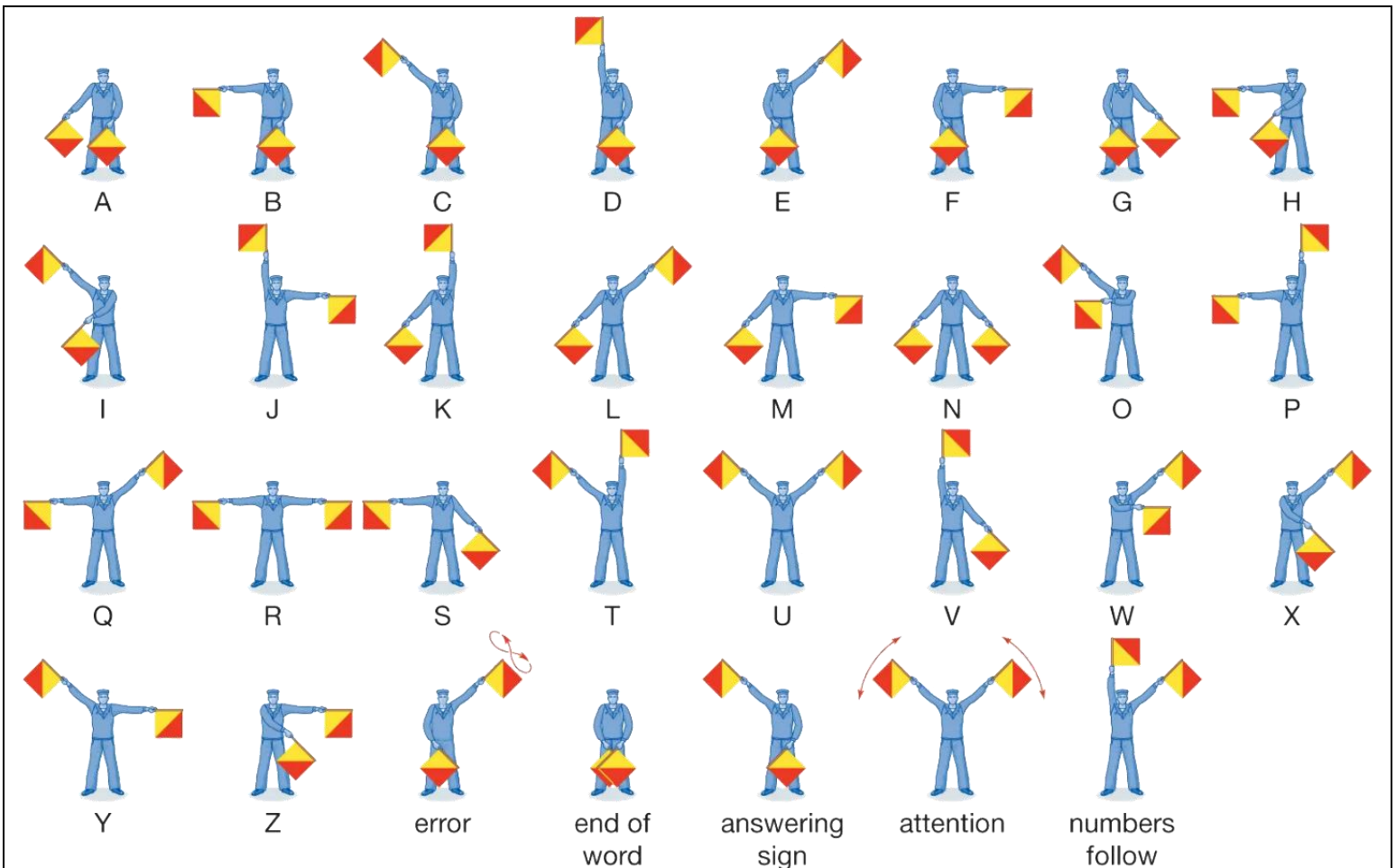
This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.

Notes:





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REQUIREMENT 4: Give your counselor a brief explanation about semaphore, why it is used, how it is used, and where it is used.

Notes:



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REQUIREMENT 4: Explain the difference between semaphore flags and nautical flags.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 4a: Spell your first name using semaphore.

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.

Name:

REQUIREMENT 4a: Send or receive a message of six to 10 words using semaphore.

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.

Notes:



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REQUIREMENT 4b: Using illustrations or photographs, identify 10 examples of nautical flags.



A-Alfa
Diver Down Keep Clear



B-Bravo
Dangerous Cargo



C-Charlie
Yes



D-Delta
Keep Clear



E-Echo
Altering Course to Starboard



F-Foxtrot
Disabled



G-Golf
Want a Pilot



H-Hotel
Pilot on Board



I-India
Altering Course to Port



J-Juliet
On Fire Keep Clear



K-Kilo
Desire to Communicate



L-Lima
Stop Instantly



M-Mike
I Am Stopped



N-November
No



O-Oscar
Man Overboard



P-Papa
About To Sail



Q-Quebec
Request Pratique



R-Romeo
Do Not Pass Ahead of Me



S-Sierra
Engines Going Astern



T-Tango
Keep Clear



U-Uniform
Standing Into Danger



V-Victor
Require Assistance



W-Whiskey
Require Medical Assistance



X-Xray
Stop Your Intention



Y-Yankee
Am Dragging Anchor



Z-Zulu
Require A Tug



0



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



1st Repeater



2nd Repeater



3rd Repeater



Code & Answering

REQUIREMENT 4b: Discuss the importance of nautical flags.

Notes:



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REQUIREMENT 5: Explain the braille reading technique and how it helps individuals with sight impairment to communicate.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 5a: Either by sight or by touch, identify the letters of the braille alphabet that spell your name.

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.

Name:



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REQUIREMENT 5a: Either by sight or by touch, decode a braille message at least six words long.

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 5b: Create a message in braille at least six words long, and share this with your counselor.

To satisfy the braille writing requirement 5b for this merit badge, you do not need to emboss braille dots in thick paper. Rather, you may use a pencil or pen to draw the dots on ordinary paper, copying the characters of the braille alphabet to spell out your message letter by letter.

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.

Message:

Notes:



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REQUIREMENT 6a: Describe to your counselor six sound-only signals that are in use today.	
Sound Signal #1:	
Sound Signal #2:	
Sound Signal #3:	
Sound Signal #4:	
Sound Signal #5:	
Sound Signal #6:	
REQUIREMENT 6a: Discuss the pros and cons of using sound signals versus other types of signals.	
Pros	Cons



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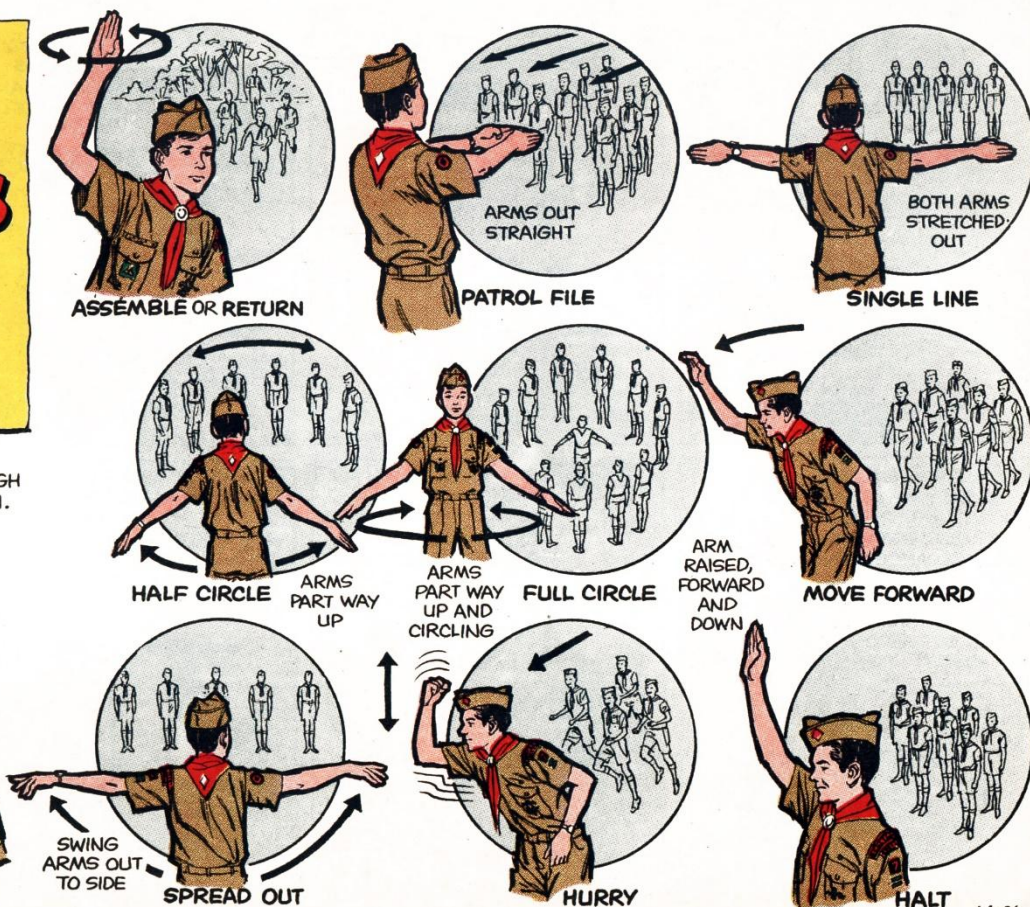
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Silent Signals

USING THESE SILENT HAND SIGNALS IN CAMP, ON THE TRAIL, OR IN THE FIELD ARE THE MARK OF A WELL-ORGANIZED, WELL-TRAINED TROOP. LEARN THEM AND USE THEM AND YOUR TROOP WILL MOVE QUICKLY AND QUIETLY.

ATTENTION
HAND RAISED HIGH
IN SCOUT SIGN.

AT THIS MOST USED SIGNAL, EVERYONE STOPS TALKING AND WHATEVER HE'S DOING, RAISES HIS HAND THE SAME WAY AND WATCHES FOR THE FOLLOWING SIGNALS.



64096

Boys Life Magazine - 1964

REQUIREMENT 6b:

Demonstrate to your counselor six different silent Scout signals. Use these Scout signals to direct the movements and actions of your patrol or troop.

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.

Notes:



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REQUIREMENT 7: On a Scout outing, lay out a trail for your patrol or troop to follow. Cover at least one mile in distance and use at least six different trail signs and markers. After the Scouts have completed the trail, follow no-trace principles by replacing or returning trail markers to their original locations.

This requirement will be done during the class and must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.

If this requirement has been completed prior to the class, you will need to have an Adult Leader's sign off

Remember, this sign off is not a guarantee of completion, completion is at the discretion and satisfaction of the merit badge counselor.

Scout Outing:

Date and Location:

Notes:

Adult Leader's Name

Phone

Adult Leader's Signature

Date

☐

completed



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DO THREE OF THE FOLLOWING (8A, 8B, 8C, 8D, or 8E) FOR REQUIREMENT 8

REQUIREMENT 8a: Demonstrate five sports official's hand signs/signals. Tell what the signals mean and why they are used:

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.

BASEBALL



DO NOT PITCH



PLAY BALL



COUNT



OUT / STRIKE



INFIELD FLY



TIME OUT / DEAD BALL



FAIR BALL



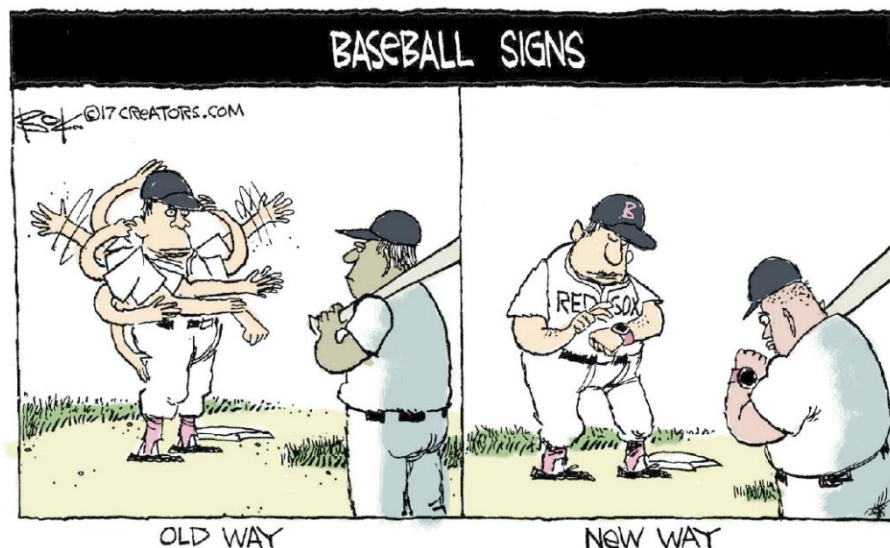
SAFE



FOUL BALL / FOUL TIP



TIME VIOLATION



OLD WAY

NEW WAY



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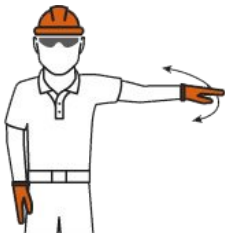







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REQUIREMENT 8b:








Demonstrate five heavy-equipment operator's hand signals. Tell what the signals mean and why they are used:

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.

CRANE OPERATOR

			
STOP	EMERGENCY STOP	HOIST	LOWER
			
LOWER BOOM	RAISE BOOM	MOVE SLOWLY	SWING

SPOTTER

			
BACK UP	BACK, TURN LEFT	BACK, TURN RIGHT	STOP
			
SLOW DOWN	MOVE FORWARD	DISTANCE LEFT	



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REQUIREMENT 8c: Demonstrate five aircraft carrier catapult crew signals. Tell what the signals mean and why they are used:

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.

AIRPLANE CAPTAIN	AIRPLANE CAPTAIN	AIRPLANE CAPTAIN	AIRPLANE CAPTAIN
AIRCRAFT APU START	ENGINE 1 START	ENGINE 1 START	ENGINE 2 START
AIRPLANE CAPTAIN	AIRPLANE CAPTAIN	AIRPLANE CAPTAIN	AIRPLANE CAPTAIN
ENGINE 2 START	SWITCH WING FLAPS TO AUTO	RAISE WING FLAPS	FLIGHT CONTROLS WIPEOUT
AIRPLANE CAPTAIN	AIRPLANE CAPTAIN	AIRPLANE CAPTAIN	AIRPLANE CAPTAIN
ELEVATOR / AILERON CHECK	LOWER / EXTEND WING FLAPS	LEFT RUDDER CHECK	RIGHT RUDDER CHECK
AIRPLANE CAPTAIN	AIRPLANE CAPTAIN	AIRCRAFT HANDLING OFFICER	AIRCRAFT HANDLING OFFICER
HANDS OFF CONTROLS	PASS CONTROL TO	REMOVE TIEDOWNS	UNFOLD WINGS



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AIRCRAFT HANDLING OFFICER	AIRCRAFT HANDLING OFFICER	AIRCRAFT HANDLING OFFICER	AIRCRAFT HANDLING OFFICER
MOVE AHEAD	TURN LEFT	TURN RIGHT	STOP
AIRCRAFT HANDLING OFFICER	AIRCRAFT HANDLING OFFICER	AIRCRAFT HANDLING OFFICER	AIRCRAFT HANDLING OFFICER
BRAKES ON	EXTEND LAUNCH BAR	UNFOLD WINGS	TAKE TENSION
SHOOTER	SHOOTER	SHOOTER	CATAPULT OFFICER
ENGINE RUN-UP	SUSPEND	LAUNCH	CATAPULT READY

Notes:



















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REQUIREMENT 8d: Demonstrate five cyclist's hand signals. Tell what the signals mean and why they are used:

Left Turn	Right Turn	Stop	Speed Up	Slow Down	Follow Me	You Lead / Come
 <p>Palm facing down</p>	 <p>90 angle up, fist clenched</p>	 <p>90 angle down, palm open facing back</p>	 <p>Swing arm up to left turn position, palm open facing up, repeat</p>	 <p>Swing arm down, palm open facing down, repeat</p>	 <p>Arm held straight up; palm open facing forward</p>	 <p>Arm extended 45 degrees, palm forward pointing with index finger, swing in arc from back to front</p>
Hazard In Road	Single File	Double File	Comfort Stop	Refreshment Stop	Turn Signal On	Pull Off
 <p>On the left, point with left hand, on the right, point with right hand</p>	 <p>Arm with index finger extended straight up</p>	 <p>Arm with index and middle finger extended straight up</p>	 <p>Forearm extended, fist clenched with short up and down motion</p>	 <p>Fingers closed, thumb to mouth</p>	 <p>Open and close hand with fingers and thumb extended</p>	 <p>Arm positioned as for right turn; forearm swung toward shoulder</p>
Cops Ahead	Fuel	Notes:				
 <p>Tap on top of helmet with open palm down</p>	 <p>Arm out to side pointing at tank with finger extended</p>					



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REQUIREMENT 8e:

Demonstrate five signals from an activity selected by you and your counselor. Tell what the signals mean and why they are used:

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.

See what you can determine and share it with the counselor.

Musical Notation
Waterskiing Gestures

Cattle Branding
Hobo Signs

Proofreader's Marks
Weather Symbols

Scuba Diving Signals
Stock Market Exchange Hand Signals

REQUIREMENT 9:

Share with your counselor 10 examples of symbols used in everyday life. Design your own symbol. Share it with your counselor and explain what it means. Then do the following:

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.

Everyday symbols are the visual signs and icons we encounter regularly in our daily lives that communicate specific meanings or information without the need for words:



[illegible]



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RED
Regulatory, immediate action.



ORANGE
Temporary road conditions.



YELLOW
Road conditions.



WHITE
Traffic regulation, helpful information.



GREEN
Directions, permitted movements.



BLUE
Road services, directions.



BROWN
Fun places to visit!



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REQUIREMENT 9b:

Using a topographical map, explain what a map legend is and discuss its importance. Point out 10 map symbols and explain the meaning of each.

Use the following legend in conjunction with the following web article to be prepared for this requirement during the class

<https://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/topo-maps-how-to-use.html>

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP SYMBOLS

VARiations WILL BE FOUND ON OLDER MAPS

Primary highway, hard surface	-----	Boundaries: National	-----
Secondary highway, hard surface	-----	State	-----
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface	-----	County, parish, municipio	-----
Unimproved road	=====	Civil township, precinct, town, barrio	-----
Road under construction, alignment known	-----	Incorporated city, village, town, hamlet	-----
Proposed road	-----	Reservation, National or State	-----
Dual highway, dividing strip 25 feet or less	-----	Small park, cemetery, airport, etc.	-----
Dual highway, dividing strip exceeding 25 feet	-----	Land grant	-----
Trail	-----	Township or range line, United States land survey	-----
Railroad: single track and multiple track	-----	Township or range line, approximate location	-----
Railroads in juxtaposition	-----	Section line, United States land survey	-----
Narrow gage: single track and multiple track	-----	Section line, approximate location	-----
Railroad in street and carline	-----	Township line, not United States land survey	-----
Bridge: road and railroad	-----	Section line, not United States land survey	-----
Drawbridge: road and railroad	-----	Found corner: section and closing	-----
Footbridge	-----	Boundary monument: land grant and other	-----
Tunnel: road and railroad	-----	Fence or field line	-----
Overpass and underpass	-----	Index contour	-----
Small masonry or concrete dam	-----	Intermediate contour	-----
Dam with lock	-----	Supplementary contour	-----
Dam with road	-----	Depression contours	-----
Canal with lock	-----	Fill	-----
Buildings (dwelling, place of employment, etc.)	-----	Cut	-----
School, church, and cemetery	-----	Levee	-----
Buildings (barn, warehouse, etc.)	-----	Levee with road	-----
Power transmission line with located metal tower	-----	Mine dump	-----
Telephone line, pipeline, etc. (labeled as to type)	-----	Tailings	-----
Wells other than water (labeled as to type)	-----	Shifting sand or dunes	-----
Tanks: oil, water, etc. (labeled only if water)	-----	Sand area	-----
Located or landmark object; windmill	-----	Perennial streams	-----
Open pit, mine, or quarry; prospect	-----	Intermittent streams	-----
Shaft and tunnel entrance	-----	Elevated aqueduct	-----
Horizontal and vertical control station:		Aqueduct tunnel	-----
Tablet, spirit level elevation	BM Δ 5653	Water well and spring	-----
Other recoverable mark, spirit level elevation	Δ 5455	Small rapids	-----
Horizontal control station: tablet, vertical angle elevation	VABM Δ 9519	Large rapids	-----
Any recoverable mark, vertical angle or checked elevation	Δ 3775	Intermittent lake	-----
Vertical control station: tablet, spirit level elevation	BM X 957	Dry lake bed	-----
Other recoverable mark, spirit level elevation	X 954	Foreshore flat	-----
Spot elevation	X 7369 X 7369	Sounding, depth curve	-----
Water elevation	670 670	Exposed wreck	-----
		Rock, bare or awash; dangerous to navigation	-----
		Marsh (swamp)	-----
		Submerged marsh	-----
		Wooded marsh	-----
		Mangrove	-----
		Woods or brushwood	-----
		Orchard	-----
		Vineyard	-----
		Scrub	-----
		Land subject to controlled inundation	-----
		Urban area	-----



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REQUIREMENT 9c:

Discuss text-message symbols and why they are commonly used.

CHAT EMOTICONS											
😊:)	😄:d	😏:p	😏;)	😏(op)	👉(go)	💰\$bu	💰\$bl	💰\$cw	💰\$ci	💰\$si	💰\$wa
💰\$yo	💰\$he	💰\$r1	💰\$r2	💰\$r3	💰\$r4	💰\$u3	💰\$y1	💰\$we	😂(lol)	😂(mdr)	💰\$ii
💰\$ll	😏:o	😏:	😏(ah)	😏(OO)	😏(oo)	👉(pa)	???\$?	💰\$no	💰\$oo	💰\$hin	😏:s
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👉:x	👉(ca)	👉(mic)	👉(sp)	👉\$gp	👉:m	👉:M	👉:f	👉:F	👉:c	👉:a	👉:C
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👉\$an	👉\$ou	👉(tu)	👉\$at	👉\$pj	👉\$fg	👉\$pn	👉\$pe	👉\$pi	👉\$bt	👉\$c1	👉\$c2
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👉\$mh	👉\$ct	👉\$ph	👉\$sy	👉\$zo	👉\$hr	👉\$in	👉\$nn	👉\$nr	👉\$st	👉\$ss	👉\$cq
👉\$gg	👉\$la	👉\$ps	👉\$da	👉\$bs	👉\$dd	👉\$ep	👉\$v1	👉\$v2	👉\$vw	👉(ip)	👉\$va
👉\$et	👉\$mt	👉\$so	👉\$us	👉\$ar1	👉\$ar2	👉\$m1	👉\$m2	👉\$m3	👉\$m4	👉\$m5	👉\$ff
👉\$cp	👉(pl)	👉(pi)	👉(ll)	👉\$ce	👉\$fr	👉\$scr	👉\$gl	👉\$lo	😏\$mi	👉\$ba	👉\$ca
👉\$ha	👉\$po	👉\$bd	👉\$hb	👉\$fm	👉\$ra	👉\$nt	👉\$bz	👉\$dj	👉\$op	👉\$gc	👉\$pm
👉\$ml	👉\$hd	👉\$on	👉(b)	👉(d)	👉(c)	👉:t	👉(pr)	👉\$ch	👉\$ve	👉\$em	👉\$cf
👉\$bx	👉\$ts	👉(fl)	👉(ma)	👉(val)	👉(ms)	👉(po)	👉(lu)	👉\$as	👉\$br	👉\$cs	👉\$sa
👉\$sm	👉\$vi	👉\$bh	👉\$ja	👉\$mz	👉\$lu	👉\$uu	👉\$u1	👉\$u2	😏\$y3	😏\$y4	😏\$y5
👉\$u4	👉:c	👉:k	👉\$wc	👉\$vc	👉\$bk	👉\$if	👉(ci)	👉\$mo	👉\$rp	👉\$d1	👉\$d2
👉\$d3	👉\$d4	👉\$d5	👉\$d6	👉\$d7	👉\$sc	👉\$d8	👉\$d9	👉\$um	👉\$d0	👉\$ms	👉\$w1
👉\$w2	👉\$su	👉(al)	👉(br)	👉(bl)	👉(rs)	👉(la)	👉\$fi	👉\$f1	👉\$f2	👉\$f3	👉\$f4
👉\$f5	👉\$f6	👉\$f7	👉\$f8	👉\$f9	👉\$fa	👉\$fq	👉\$yl	👉\$rb	👉\$h1	👉\$h2	👉\$h3
👉\$h4	👉\$h5	👉\$h6	👉\$h7	👉\$is	👉\$cu	👉\$cv	👉\$cz	👉\$kf	👉(%)	👉(cl)	👉\$%
👉\$cn	👉\$tu	👉\$bo	👉\$ta	👉\$oe	👉(bo)	👉\$wh	👉\$fe	👉\$wp	👉(g)	👉\$ne	👉\$nl
👉\$cm	👉\$sp	👉\$bn	👉\$le	👉\$ro	👉\$rO	👉\$aq	👉\$ee				



Signs, Signals, and Codes Merit Badge

REQUIREMENT 9c:

Give examples of your favorite 10 text symbols or emoticons. Then see if your counselor or parent can identify the meaning or usage of each symbol.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 10:

Briefly discuss the history of secret code writing (cryptography).

Notes:



Signs, Signals, and Codes Merit Badge

REQUIREMENT 10:

Make up your own secret code and write a message of up to 25 words using this code. Share the message with a friend or fellow Scout. Then share the message and code key with your counselor and discuss the effectiveness of your code.

Your Code:

Your Message:

Your Friend or Fellow Scout's Decoding of your Message: