

AMERICAN HERITAGE MERIT BADGE WORKBOOK

This Scoutmaster Bucky Merit Badge Workbook is based off the current *Scouts BSA Requirements*.

Consider also using the American Heritage merit badge class preparation page for clarification and expectations when participating in a Scoutmaster Bucky merit badge opportunity ([online](#) or [in-person](#)).

<https://scoutmasterbucky.com/merit-badges/american-heritage/>

Scout's
Name:

REQUIREMENT 1: Read the Declaration of Independence. Pay close attention to the section that begins with “We hold these truths to be self-evident” and ends with “to provide new Guards for their future security.” Rewrite that section in your own words, making it as easy to understand as possible. Then, share your writing with your merit badge counselor and discuss the importance of the Declaration to all Americans.

Rewrite that section in your own words, making it as easy to understand as possible

Discuss the importance of the Declaration to all Americans

REQUIREMENT 2: Do TWO of the following:

REQUIREMENT 2 A: Select two individuals from American history, one a political leader (a president, senator, etc.) and the other a private citizen (a writer, religious leader, etc.). Find out about each person’s accomplishments and compare the contributions each has made to America’s heritage.

Political leader

Name	Profession

Accomplishments

--

Private citizen

Name	Profession

Accomplishments

--

REQUIREMENT 2 B: With your counselor’s approval, choose an organization that has promoted some type of positive change in American society. Find out why the organization believed this change was necessary and how it helped to accomplish the change. Discuss how this organization is related to events or situations from America’s past.

Organization

The positive change in American society

Why the organization believed this change was necessary

How it helped to accomplish the change

How this organization is related to events or situations from America's past

REQUIREMENT 2 C: With your counselor’s approval, interview two veterans of the U.S. military. Find out what their experiences were like. Ask the veterans what they believe they accomplished.

First veteran's name	Second veteran's name
----------------------	-----------------------

--	--

Counselor Name

Phone

Counselor Signature

Date



Approved

First veteran

Rank and branch of service

This person's experiences

What this person believes they accomplished

Second veteran

Rank and branch of service

This person's experiences

What this person believes they accomplished

REQUIREMENT 2 D: With your counselor's approval, interview three people in your community of different ages and occupations. Ask these people what America means to them, what they think is special about this country, and what American traditions they feel are important to preserve.

First person's name

Approximate age

Occupation

Counselor Name

Phone

Counselor Signature

Date

☐
Approved

What America means to this person

What this person thinks is special about this country

What American traditions this person feels are important to preserve	
<div></div>	
Second person's name	Approximate age
<div></div>	<div></div>
Occupation	
<div></div>	
<div></div>	
<div></div> Counselor Name	<div></div> Phone
<div></div> Counselor Signature	<div></div> Date
	<div></div> Approved
What America means to this person	
<div></div>	
What this person thinks is special about this country	
<div></div>	

What American traditions this person feels are important to preserve	
<div></div>	
Third person's name	Approximate age
<div></div>	<div></div>
Occupation	
<div></div>	
<div></div>	
<div></div> Counselor Name	<div></div> Phone
<div></div> Counselor Signature	<div></div> Date
	<div></div> Approved
What America means to this person	
<div></div>	
What this person thinks is special about this country	
<div></div>	

What American traditions this person feels are important to preserve

REQUIREMENT 3: Do the following:

REQUIREMENT 3 A: Select a topic related to the United States that is currently in the news. Describe to your counselor what is happening. Explain how today's events are related to or affected by the events and values of America's past.

What is happening

How today's events are related to or affected by the events and values of America's past

REQUIREMENT 3 B: For each of the following, describe its adoption, tell about any changes since its adoption, and explain how each one continues to influence Americans today: the flag, the Pledge of Allegiance, the Great Seal of the United States, the motto, and the national anthem.

The flag

Its adoption

Changes since its adoption

How it continues to influence Americans today

The Pledge of Allegiance

Its adoption

Changes since its adoption

How it continues to influence Americans today

The Great Seal of the United States

Its adoption

Changes since its adoption

How it continues to influence Americans today

The motto

Its adoption

Changes since its adoption

How it continues to influence Americans today

The national anthem

Its adoption

Changes since its adoption

How it continues to influence Americans today

REQUIREMENT 3 C: Research your family’s history. Find out how various events and situations in American history affected your family. If your family immigrated to America, tell the reasons why. Share what you find with your counselor.

How various events and situations in American history affected your family

If your family immigrated to America, tell the reason why

REQUIREMENT 4: Do TWO of the following:

REQUIREMENT 4 A: Explain the National Register of Historic Places and how a property becomes eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Make a map of your local area, marking the points of historical interest. Tell about any National Register properties in your area. Share the map with your counselor, and describe the historical points you have indicated.

Explain the National Register of Historic Places

How a property becomes eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places

Points of historic interest in your local area

National Register properties in your area

REQUIREMENT 4 B: Research an event of historical importance that took place in or near your area. If possible, visit the place. Tell your counselor about the event and how it affected local history. Describe how the area looked then and what it now looks like.

About the event

How it affected local history

How the area looked then

What it now looks like

REQUIREMENT 4 C: Find out when, why, and how your town or neighborhood started, and what ethnic, national, or racial groups played a part. Find out how the area has changed over the past 50 years and try to explain why.

When your town or neighborhood started

Why your town or neighborhood started

How your town or neighborhood started

What ethnic, national, or racial groups played a part

How the area has changed over the past 50 years

Try to explain why the area has changed

REQUIREMENT 4 D: Take an active part in a program about an event or person in American history. Report to your counselor about the program, the part you took, and the subject.

About the program

The part you took

The subject

REQUIREMENT 4 E: Visit a historic trail or walk in your area. After your visit, share with your counselor what you have learned. Discuss the importance of this location and explain why you think it might qualify for National Register listing.

What you have learned

Importance of this location

Why you think it might qualify for National Register listing

REQUIREMENT 5: Do ONE of the following:

REQUIREMENT 5 A: Watch two motion pictures (with the approval and permission of your counselor and parent) that are set in some period of American history. Describe to your counselor how accurate each film is with regard to the historical events depicted and also with regard to the way the characters are portrayed.

First motion picture

Name of motion picture

How accurate it is with regard to the historical events depicted
How accurate it is with regard to the way characters are portrayed
Second motion picture
Name of motion picture
How accurate it is with regard to the historical events depicted
How accurate it is with regard to the way characters are portrayed

REQUIREMENT 5 B: Read a biography (with your counselor’s approval) of someone who has made a contribution to America’s heritage. Tell some things you admire about this individual and some things you do not admire. Explain why you think this person has made a positive or a negative contribution to America’s heritage.

Some things you admire about this individual

Some things you do not admire about this individual

Why you think this person has made a positive or negative contribution to America’s heritage

REQUIREMENT 5 C: Listen to recordings of popular songs from various periods of American history. Share five of these songs with your counselor, and describe how each song reflects the way people felt about the period in which it was popular. If a recording is not available, have a copy of the lyrics available.

First song name, when it was popular, and how it reflects the way people felt about the period in which it was popular

Second song name, when it was popular, and how it reflects the way people felt about the period in which it was popular

Third song name, when it was popular, and how it reflects the way people felt about the period in which it was popular

Fourth song name, when it was popular, and how it reflects the way people felt about the period in which it was popular

Fifth song name, when it was popular, and how it reflects the way people felt about the period in which it was popular

REQUIREMENT 6: Discuss with your counselor the career opportunities in American heritage. Pick one that interests you and explain how to prepare for this career. Discuss what education and training are required for this career.

Career opportunities in American heritage

How to prepare for one career

Education and training that are required for this career