



Electricity

Merit Badge Workbook



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

The work space provided for each requirement should be used by the Scout to make notes for discussing the item with his counselor, not for providing the full and complete answers. Each Scout must do each requirement.

No one may add or subtract from the official requirements found in **Boy Scout Requirements** (Pub. 33216 – SKU619576).

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

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
Comments or suggestions for changes to the **requirements** for the **merit badge** should be sent to: Merit.Badge@Scouting.Org

1. Demonstrate that you know how to respond to electrical emergencies by doing the following:

- ☐ a. Show how to rescue a person touching a live wire in the home.
- ☐ b. Show how to render first aid to a person who is unconscious from electrical shock.
- ☐ c. Show how to treat an electrical burn.
- d. Explain what to do in an electrical storm.

e. Explain what to do in the event of an electrical fire.

2. Complete an electrical home safety inspection of your home, using the checklist found in this (the merit badge) pamphlet or one approved by your counselor. Discuss what you find with your counselor.

(See the Sample Home Electrical Inspection Checklist at the end of this workbook.)

- ☐ 3. Make a simple electromagnet and use it to show magnetic attraction and repulsion.
4. Explain the difference between direct current and alternating current.

5. Make a simple drawing to show how a battery and an electric bell work.



6. Explain why a fuse blows or a circuit breaker trips.

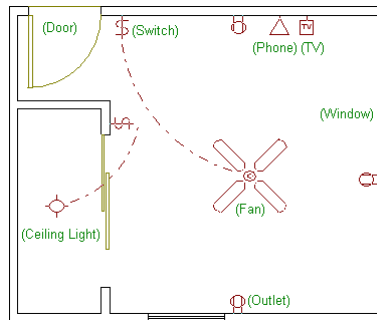
Tell how to find a blown fuse or tripped circuit breaker in your home.

- ☐ Show how to safely reset the circuit breaker.
7. Explain what overloading an electric circuit means.

Tell what you have done to make sure your home circuits are not overloaded.

8. Make a floor plan wiring diagram of the lights, switches, and outlets for a room in your home. Show which fuse or circuit breaker protects each one.

Sample Bedroom Plan



Circuit: "SE Bedroom" 15 A
Your Plan

This image shows a full page of blank graph paper. The grid consists of small, uniform squares formed by thin, light blue lines. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

9. Do the following:

- a. Read an electric meter and, using your family's electric bill, determine the energy cost from the meter readings.

- b. Discuss with your counselor five ways in which your family can conserve energy.

1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

10. Explain the following electrical terms: volt, ampere, watt, ohm, resistance, potential difference, rectifier, rheostat, conductor, ground, circuit, and short circuit.

Volt;

Ampere;

Watt:

Ohm;

Resistance:

Potential
difference:

Rectifier:

Rheostat:

Conductor:

Ground:

Circuit:

Short circuit:

11. Do any TWO of the following:

- ☐ a. Connect a buzzer, bell, or light with a battery. Have a key or switch in the line.
- ☐ b. Make and run a simple electric motor (not from a kit).
- ☐ c. Build a simple rheostat. Show that it works.
- ☐ d. Build a single-pole, double-throw switch. Show that it works.
- ☐ e. Hook a model electric train layout to a house circuit. Tell how it works.

Requirement resources can be found here:http://www.meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Electricity#Requirement_resources

Sample Home Electrical Inspection Checklist

Outlets

- ☐ Check for outlets that have loose-fitting plugs, which can overheat and lead to fire.
- ☐ Replace any missing or broken wall plates.
- ☐ Make sure there are safety covers on all unused outlets that are accessible to children.

Line Cords

- ☐ Make sure cords are in good condition-not frayed or cracked.
- ☐ Make sure they are placed out of traffic areas.
- ☐ Make sure that cords are not nailed or stapled to the wall, baseboard or to another object.
- ☐ Make sure that cords are not under carpets or rugs or any furniture rests on them.

Extension Cords

- ☐ Check to see that extension cords are not overloaded & only be used on a temporary basis, not as permanent wiring.
- ☐ Make sure extension cords have safety closures to help protect children from shock hazards and mouth burns.

Plugs

- ☐ Make sure your plugs fit securely into your outlets.
- ☐ Make sure no plugs have had the ground pin (the third prong) removed in order to make a three-prong fit a two-conductor outlet; this could lead to an electrical shock.
- ☐ Never force a plug into an outlet if it doesn't fit.
- ☐ Avoid overloading outlets with too many appliances.

Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs)

GFCIs can help prevent electrocution. When a GFCI senses current leakage in an electrical circuit, it assumes a ground fault has occurred. It then interrupts power fast enough to help prevent serious injury from electrical shock. GFCIs can be installed at the outlet, or as a replacement for the circuit breaker for an entire circuit at the fuse box.

- ☐ Kitchen ☐ Bathrooms ☐ Garage ☐ Laundry room ☐ Outdoors
- ☐ Test GFCIs according to the manufacturer's instructions monthly and after major electrical storms to make sure they are working properly.

Light Bulbs

- ☐ Check the wattage of all bulbs in light fixtures to make sure they are the correct wattage for the size of the fixture.
- ☐ Replace bulbs that have higher wattage than recommended; if you don't know the correct wattage, check with the manufacturer of the fixture.
- ☐ Make sure bulbs are screwed in securely; loose bulbs may overheat.

Circuit Breakers/Fuses

- ☐ Make sure circuit breakers and fuses are the correct size current rating for their circuit. If you do not know the correct size, have an electrician identify and label the size to be used. Always replace a fuse with the correctly specified size fuse.
- ☐ Make sure everyone in your home knows where the main breaker is located and how to shut off power to the entire house.

Plug In Appliances

- ☐ Make sure there are no plugged-in appliances where they might fall in contact with water. If a plugged-in appliance falls into water, NEVER reach in to pull it out—even if it's turned off. First turn off the power source at the panel board and then unplug the appliance. If you have an appliance that has gotten wet, don't use it until it has been checked by a qualified repair person.

Sample Home Electrical Inspection Checklist (page 2)**Appliances**

- ☐ If an appliance repeatedly blows a fuse, trips a circuit breaker or if it has given you a shock, unplug it and have it repaired or replaced.

Entertainment/Computer Equipment

- ☐ Check to see that the equipment is in good condition and working properly. Look for cracks or damage in wiring, plugs and connectors.
- ☐ Use a surge protector bearing the seal of a nationally recognized certification agency.

Outdoor Safety

- ☐ Electric-powered mowers and other electric tools should not be used in the rain, on wet grass or in wet conditions.
- ☐ Inspect power tools & electric lawn mowers before each use for frayed power cords, broken plugs & cracked or broken housings. If any part is damaged, stop using it immediately. Repair it or replace it.
- ☐ Always use an extension cord marked for outdoor use and rated for the power needs of your tools.
- ☐ Remember to unplug all portable power tools when not in use.
- ☐ When using ladders, watch out for overhead wires and power lines. Stay at least 10 feet from all overhead lines.

Lightning

- ☐ During an electrical storm, do not use appliances (i.e., hairdryers, toasters and radios) or telephones (except in an emergency); do not take a bath or shower;
- ☐ Keep batteries on hand for flashlights and radios in case of a power outage.
- ☐ Use surge protectors on electronic devices, appliances, phones, fax machines and modems.

Space Heaters

- ☐ Space heaters are meant to supply supplemental heat. Keep space heaters at least 3 ft. away from any combustible materials such as bedding, clothing, draperies, furniture and rugs.
- ☐ Don't use space heaters in rooms where children are unsupervised and remember to turn off and unplug when not in use.
- ☐ Do not use space heaters with extension cords; plug directly into an outlet on a relatively unburdened circuit.

Halogen Floor Lamps

- ☐ Halogen floor lamps operate at much higher temperatures than a standard incandescent light bulb. Never place a halogen floor lamp where it could come in contact with draperies, clothing or other combustible materials.
- ☐ Be sure to turn the lamp off whenever you leave the room for an extended period of time.
- ☐ Never use torchiere lamps in children's bedrooms or playrooms. Consider using cooler fluorescent floor lamps.

Important excerpts from the [Guide To Advancement - 2013](#), No. 33088 (SKU-618673)

[1.0.0.0] — Introduction

The current edition of the *Guide to Advancement* is the official source for administering advancement in all Boy Scouts of America programs: Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, Varsity Scouting, Venturing, and Sea Scouts. It replaces any previous BSA advancement manuals, including *Advancement Committee Policies and Procedures*, *Advancement and Recognition Policies and Procedures*, and previous editions of the *Guide to Advancement*.

[Page 2, and 5.0.1.4] — Policy on Unauthorized Changes to Advancement Program

No council, committee, district, unit, or individual has the authority to add to, or subtract from, advancement requirements. There are limited exceptions relating only to youth members with special needs. For details see section 10, "Advancement for Members With Special Needs".

[Page 2] — The "Guide to Safe Scouting" Applies

Policies and procedures outlined in the *Guide to Safe Scouting*, No. 34416, apply to all BSA activities, including those related to advancement and Eagle Scout service projects.

[7.0.3.1] — The Buddy System and Certifying Completion

A youth member must not meet one-on-one with an adult. Sessions with counselors must take place where others can view the interaction, or the Scout must have a buddy: a friend, parent, guardian, brother, sister, or other relative—or better yet, another Scout working on the same badge—along with him attending the session.

When the Scout meets with the counselor, he should bring any required projects. If these cannot be transported, he should present evidence, such as photographs or adult verification. His unit leader, for example, might state that a satisfactory bridge or tower has been built for the Pioneering merit badge, or that meals were prepared for Cooking. If there are questions that requirements were met, a counselor may confirm with adults involved. Once satisfied, the counselor signs the blue card using the date upon which the Scout completed the requirements, or in the case of partials, initials the individual requirements passed.

Note that from time to time, it may be appropriate for a requirement that has been met for one badge to also count for another. See "Fulfilling More Than One Requirement With a Single Activity," 4.2.3.6.

[7.0.3.2] — Group Instruction

It is acceptable—and sometimes desirable—for merit badges to be taught in group settings. This often occurs at camp and merit badge midways or similar events. Interactive group discussions can support learning. The method can also be attractive to "guest experts" assisting registered and approved counselors. Slide shows, skits, demonstrations, panels, and various other techniques can also be employed, but as any teacher can attest, not everyone will learn all the material.

There must be attention to each individual's projects and his fulfillment of *all* requirements. We must know that every Scout—actually and *personally*—completed them. If, for example, a requirement uses words like "show," "demonstrate," or "discuss," then every Scout must do that. It is unacceptable to award badges on the basis of sitting in classrooms *watching* demonstrations, or remaining silent during discussions.

It is sometimes reported that Scouts who have received merit badges through group instructional settings have not fulfilled all the requirements. To offer a quality merit badge program, council and district advancement committees should ensure the following are in place for all group instructional events.

- Merit badge counselors are known to be registered and approved.
- Any guest experts or guest speakers, or others assisting who are not registered and approved as merit badge counselors, do not accept the responsibilities of, or behave as, merit badge counselors, either at a group instructional event or at any other time. Their service is temporary, not ongoing.
- Counselors agree not to assume prerequisites have been completed without some level of evidence that the work has been done. Pictures and letters from other merit badge counselors or unit leaders are the best form of prerequisite documentation when the actual work done cannot be brought to the camp or site of the merit badge event.
- There is a mechanism for unit leaders or others to report concerns to a council advancement committee on summer camp merit badge programs, group instructional events, and any other merit badge counseling issues—especially in instances where it is believed BSA procedures are not followed. See "Reporting Merit Badge Counseling Concerns," 11.1.0.0.
- There must be attention to each individual's projects and his fulfillment of all requirements. We must know that every Scout—actually and *personally*—completed them.

[7.0.3.3] — Partial Completions

A Scout need not pass all the requirements of one merit badge with the same counselor. It may be that due to timing or location issues, etc., he must meet with a different counselor to finish the badge. The Application for Merit Badge has a place to record what has been finished—a "partial." In the center section on the reverse of the blue card, the counselor initials for each requirement passed. In the case of a partial completion, the counselor does not retain his or her portion of the card. A subsequent counselor may choose not to accept partial work, but this should be rare. A Scout, if he believes he is being treated unfairly, may work with his unit leader to find another counselor. An example for the use of a signed partial would be to take it to camp as proof of prerequisites. Partials have no expiration except the Scout's 18th birthday. Units, districts, or councils shall not establish other expiration dates for partial merit badges.

[7.0.4.8] — Unofficial Worksheets and Learning Aids

Worksheets and other materials that may be of assistance in earning merit badges are available from a variety of places including unofficial sources on the Internet and even troop libraries. Use of these aids is permissible as long as the materials can be correlated with the current requirements that Scouts must fulfill. Completing "worksheets" may suffice where a requirement calls for something in writing, but this would not work for a requirement where the Scout must discuss, tell, show, or demonstrate, etc. Note that Scouts shall not be required to use these learning aids in order to complete a merit badge.