

# MERIT BADGE SERIES



# CRIME PREVENTION



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

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*"Enhancing our youths' competitive edge through merit badges"*



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# Requirements

1. Discuss the role and value of laws in society with regard to crime and crime prevention. Include in your discussion the definitions of “crime” and “crime prevention.”
2. Prepare a notebook of newspaper and other clippings that address crime and crime prevention efforts in your community.
3. Discuss the following with your counselor:
  - a. The role of citizens, including youth, in crime prevention.
  - b. Gangs and their impact on the community.
  - c. When and how to report a crime.
4. After doing EACH of the following, discuss with your counselor what you have learned.
  - a. Inspect your neighborhood for opportunities that may lead to crime. Learn how to do a crime prevention survey.
  - b. Using the checklist in this pamphlet, conduct a security survey of your home and discuss the results with your family.
5. Teach your family or patrol members how to protect themselves from crime at home, at school, in your community, and while traveling.

6. Help raise awareness about one school safety issue facing students by doing ONE of the following:
  - a. Create a poster for display on a school bulletin board.
  - b. With permission from school officials, create a pagelong public service announcement that could be read over the public address system at school or posted on the school's Web site.
  - c. Make a presentation to a group such as a Cub Scout den that addresses the issue.
7. Do ONE of the following:
  - a. Assist in the planning and organization of a crime prevention program in your community such as Neighborhood Watch, Community Watch, or Crime Stoppers. Explain how this program can benefit your neighborhood.
  - b. With your parent's and counselor's approval, visit a jail or detention facility or a criminal court hearing. Discuss your experience with your counselor.
8. Discuss the following with your counselor:
  - a. How drug abuse awareness programs such as "Drugs: A Deadly Game" help prevent crime.
  - b. Why alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana are sometimes called "gateway drugs" and how gateway drugs can lead to the use of other drugs.
  - c. Three resources in your city where a person with a drug problem or drug-related problem can go for help.
  - d. How the illegal sale and use of drugs lead to other crimes.
  - e. How to recognize child abuse.
  - f. The three R's of Youth Protection.

9. Discuss the following with your counselor:
- a. The role of a sheriff's or police department in crime prevention.
  - b. The purpose and operation of agencies in your community that help law enforcement personnel prevent crime, and how those agencies function during emergency situations.
  - c. Explain the role private security plays in crime prevention.
  - d. Choose a career in the crime prevention or security industry that interests you. Describe the level of education required and responsibilities of a person in that position. Tell why this position interests you.

# Crime Prevention Resources

## Scouting Literature

*Drugs: A Deadly Game* pamphlet;  
*Citizenship in the Community*,  
*Citizenship in the Nation*,  
*Fingerprinting, Fire Safety, Law, and*  
*Safety* merit badge pamphlets

Visit the Boy Scouts of America's official retail website at <http://www.scoutstuff.org> for a complete listing of all merit badge pamphlets and other helpful Scouting materials and supplies.

## Books

- Davidson, Tom, et al. *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Home Security*. Alpha Books, 2001.
- DeBecker, Gavin. *Protecting the Gift: Keeping Children and Teenagers Safe (and Parents Sane)*. Dell, 2000.
- Giggans, Patricia Occhiuzzo, and Barrie Levy. *50 Ways to a Safer World: Everyday Actions You Can Take to Prevent Violence in Neighborhoods, Schools, and Communities*. Seal Press, 1997.
- Hammer, Carl. *Home Security: How to Select Reliable Locks and Alarms for*

*Your Home, Office, or Car*. Paladin Press, 2001.

Kraizer, Sherryll. *The Safe Child Book: A Commonsense Approach to Protecting Children and Teaching Children to Protect Themselves*. Fireside, 1996.

Mann, Stephanie, et al. *Safe Homes, Safe Neighborhoods: Stopping Crime Where You Live*. Nole Press, 1993.

Rawls, Neal, and Sue Kovach. *Be Alert, Be Aware, Have a Plan: The Complete Guide to Personal Security*. The Lyons Press, 2002.

Sechler, Jeff. *Internet Safety for Kids and Young Adults*. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2012.

## Organizations and Websites

### Bureau of Justice Assistance

U.S. Department of Justice  
Telephone: 202-616-6500  
Website: <http://www.bja.gov>

### Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design

International CPTED Association  
Telephone: 403-775-7400  
Website: <http://www.cpted.net>

### **Ignitus**

Toll-free telephone: 800-316-4311

Website:

<http://www.ignitusworldwide.org>

### **National Center for Missing & Exploited Children**

Toll-free hotline: 800-843-5678

Website: <http://www.missingkids.com>

### **National Child Identification Program**

Telephone: 972-934-2211

Website:

<http://www.childidprogram.com>

### **National Crime Prevention Council**

Telephone: 443-292-4565

Website: <http://www.ncpc.org>

### **National McGruff House Network**

Website: <http://www.mcgruff.org>

### **National School Safety Center**

Telephone: 805-373-9977

Website: <http://www.schoolsafety.us>

### **National Sheriffs' Association**

Toll-free telephone: 800-424-7827

Website: <http://www.sheriffs.org>

### **Prevent Child Abuse America**

Toll-free telephone: 800-244-5373

Website:

<http://www.preventchildabuse.org>

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The Boy Scouts of America thanks Joanne McDaniel, director, and William Lassiter, school safety specialist, the Center for the Prevention of School Violence, North Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Ms. McDaniel and Mr. Lassiter (who also is an Eagle Scout) helped revise the Crime Prevention merit badge requirements.

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