“Enhancing our youths’ competitive edge through merit badges”
Requirements

1. Using X-ray (radiographic) films and with your counselor’s guidance, study the tooth structure and look for decay. Then do the following:
   a. Using the radiographs as a guide, draw a lower molar. Label its parts and surfaces. Show surrounding structures such as bone and gum tissues.
   b. Show on your drawing where the nerves and blood vessels enter the tooth.
   c. Show on your drawing where bacterial plaque is most likely to be found.

2. Do the following:
   a. Tell or write about what causes dental decay and gum disease. Tell how each of the following contributes to dental decay and gum disease: bacterial plaque, sugars, and acid.
   b. Tell the possible causes for traumatic tooth loss, describe the types of mouth guards used to help prevent tooth trauma, and list the athletic activities during which a person should wear a mouth guard.
   c. Explain the first-aid procedure for saving a tooth that has been knocked out.
   d. Discuss how the use of tobacco products can negatively affect your oral health.

3. Arrange for a visit with a dentist. Before you go, ask whether your visit can include a dental examination and a plaque-control demonstration. Afterward, ask questions about things you want to know. Then tell your counselor what the dentist does during a checkup examination.
4. Do TWO of the following:
   a. Name at least five instruments and five pieces of equipment a dentist uses.
   b. With the help of a dentist, prepare a dental stone cast using a vibrator, a mixing bowl, a water measure, a plastic measure, model stone, and a spatula.
   c. Keep a record of everything you eat for three days. Circle those items that may provide the sugars that bacterial plaque needs to make acid. List snacks that you should avoid to help maintain the best oral health.

5. Discuss with your merit badge counselor the following:
   a. How fluorides help prevent tooth decay and the ways fluorides can be provided to the teeth.
   b. How the mouth is related to the rest of the body. Topics might include chewing, saliva, enzymes, nutrition, and speech.

6. Do TWO of the following:
   a. Make a model tooth out of soap, clay, papier-mâché, or wax. Using a string and a large hand brush, show your troop or a school class proper toothbrushing and flossing procedures.
   b. Make a poster on the prevention of dental disease. Show the importance of good oral health.
   c. Collect at least five advertisements for different toothpastes. List the claims that each one makes. Tell about the accuracy of the advertisements.
   d. Write a feature story for your school newspaper on the proper care of teeth and gums. Include in your story how the use of tobacco products can negatively affect a person’s oral health.
   e. Make drawings and write about the progress of dental decay. Describe the types of dental filling and treatments a dentist can use to repair dental decay problems.

7. Find out about three career opportunities in dentistry. Pick one and find out the education, training, and experience required for this profession. Discuss this with your counselor, and explain why this profession might interest you.
Dentistry Resources

Scouting Literature
First Aid, Medicine, and Public Health merit badge pamphlets

For more information about or to order Scouting-related resources, visit the BSA’s online retail catalog at http://www.scoutstuff.org.

Books


Organizations and Websites

**Academy of General Dentistry**  
211 E. Chicago Ave., Suite 900  
Chicago, IL 60611-1999  
Toll-free telephone: 888-243-3368  
Website: http://www.agd.org

**American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry**  
Toll-free telephone: 800-543-9220  
Website: http://www.aacd.com

**American Academy of Dental Sleep Medicine**  
Telephone: 630-737-9761  
Website: http://www.aadsm.org

**American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology**  
Toll-free telephone: 888-552-2667  
Website: http://www.aaomp.org

**American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology**  
Telephone: 706-721-2607  
Website: http://www.aaomr.org

**American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry**  
Telephone: 312-337-2169  
Website: http://www.aapd.org

**American Academy of Periodontology**  
Telephone: 312-787-5518  
Website: http://www.perio.org

**American Association of Endodontists**  
Toll-free telephone: 800-872-3636  
Website: http://www.aae.org

**American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons**  
Telephone: 847-678-6200  
Website: http://www.aoms.org

**American Association of Orthodontists**  
401 N. Lindbergh Blvd.  
St. Louis, MO 63141-7816  
Telephone: 314-993-1700  
Website: http://www.braces.org

**American Association of Public Health Dentistry**  
P.O. Box 7536  
Springfield, IL 62791-7536  
Telephone: 217-391-0218  
Website: http://www.aaphd.org

**American College of Prosthodontists**  
Telephone: 312-573-1260  
Website: http://www.prosthodontics.org

**American Dental Assistants Association**  
35 E. Wacker Drive, Suite 1730  
Chicago, IL 60601-2211  
Telephone: 312-440-2500  
Website: http://www.dentalassistant.org

**American Dental Education Association**  
1400 K St. NW, Suite 1100  
Washington, DC 20005  
Telephone: 202-289-7201  
Website: http://www.adea.org

**American Dental Hygienists’ Association**  
444 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 3400  
Chicago, IL 60611  
Telephone: 312-440-8900  
Website: http://www.adha.org
Dentistry Resources

Academy of Comprehensive Esthetics
Website: http://www.ACEsthetics.com

Dentalsite
Website: http://www.dentalsite.com

HealthWeb
Website: http://www.healthweb.org

Acknowledgments

The Boy Scouts of America is grateful to Kent Smith, D.D.S., for his expertise and assistance with this merit badge pamphlet. Thanks to Dr. Smith and Dr. Jeff Roy for the use of their facilities at 21st Century Dental in Irving, Texas. We thank Dr. Smith, Dr. Roy, and their staff members, who went beyond the call of duty to help make possible the photography in this edition of the Dentistry merit badge pamphlet.

Thanks to Troop 175, Irving, Texas, and Troop 788, Dallas, Texas, for their assistance with photography.

The Boy Scouts of America is grateful to the men and women serving on the Merit Badge Maintenance Task Force for the improvements made in updating this pamphlet.

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