MERIT BADGE SERIES

PUBLIC SPEAKING

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
PUBLIC SPEAKING

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

1. Give a three- to five-minute introduction of yourself to an audience such as your troop, class at school, or some other group.

2. Prepare a three- to five-minute talk on a topic of your choice that incorporates body language and visual aids.

3. Give an impromptu talk of at least two minutes either as part of a group discussion or before your counselor. Use a subject selected by your counselor that is interesting to you but that is not known to you in advance and for which you do not have time to prepare.

4. Select a topic of interest to your audience. Collect and organize information about the topic and prepare an outline. Write an eight- to 10-minute speech, practice it, then deliver it in a conversational way.

5. Show you know parliamentary procedure by leading a discussion or meeting according to accepted rules of order, or by answering questions on the rules of order.
Public Speaking Resources

**Scouting Literature**

*Journalism* and *Communication* merit badge pamphlets

**Books**


Esposito, Janet E. *In the Spotlight: Overcome Your Fear of Public Speaking and Performing.* In the Spotlight, 2005.


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.


**Organizations and Websites**

**National Speakers Association**  
Telephone: 480-968-2552  
Website: http://www.nsaspeaker.org

**American Institute of Parliamentarians**  
Toll-free telephone: 888-664-0428  
Website: http://www.aipparl.org

**National Association of Parliamentarians**  
Toll-free telephone: 888-627-2929  
Website: http://parliamentarians.org

**Toastmasters International**  
Telephone: 949-858-8255  
Website: http://www.toastmasters.org

**Words That Shook the World**  
Telephone: 310-273-5787  
Website: http://www.wordsthatshooktheworld.com

**Acknowledgments**

The Boy Scouts of America greatly appreciates the assistance of Forrest C. Greenslade, Ph.D., D.T.M., and freelance writer Shannon Lowry, a former associate editor of *Boys’ Life* magazine, with this edition of the *Public Speaking* merit badge pamphlet.

Many thanks to Malcolm Kushner, author of *Public Speaking for Dummies*, a funny, comprehensive guide to public speaking. For the tips on stage fright, the BSA acknowledges Chris Widener, author, speaker, and president of Made for Success and Extraordinary Leaders (http://www.madeforsuccess.com and http://www.extraordinaryleaders.com), and public speaking authority Tom Antion (www.antion.com).

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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