

MERIT BADGE SERIES



FIRE SAFETY



Fill outdoors.
Never loosen
cap or fill tank
near flame,
pilot lights, or
while stove
is hot.



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

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MERIT BADGE SERIES

FIRE SAFETY



"Enhancing our youths' competitive edge through merit badges"



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Requirements

1. Do the following:
 - a. Demonstrate the technique of stop, drop, roll, and cool. Explain how burn injuries can be prevented.
 - b. List the most frequent causes of burn injuries.
 - c. Explain how to safely discard and store flammable liquids.
2. Explain the chemistry and physics of fire. Name the parts of the fire tetrahedron. Explain why vapors are important to the burning process. Name the products of combustion. Give an example of how fire grows and what happens.
3. Do the following:
 - a. Name the most frequent causes of fire in the home, and give examples of ways they can be prevented. Include a discussion about fires caused by smoking in the home, cooking, candles, fireplaces, and electrical appliances.
 - b. Find out whether smoke detectors are required in each dwelling in your municipality. If so, learn what types of smoke detectors are required or acceptable.
4. Explain the role of human behavior in the arson problem in this country.
5. List the actions and common circumstances that cause seasonal and holiday-related fires. Explain how these fires can be prevented.
6. Conduct a home safety survey with the help of an adult. Then do the following:
 - a. Draw a home fire-escape plan, create a home fire-drill schedule, and conduct a home fire drill.
 - b. Test a smoke alarm and demonstrate regular maintenance of a smoke alarm.
 - c. Explain what to do when you smell gas and when you smell smoke.

- d. Explain how you would report a fire alarm.
 - e. Explain what fire safety equipment can be found in public buildings.
 - f. Explain who should use fire extinguishers and when these devices can be used.
 - g. Explain how to extinguish a grease pan fire.
 - h. Explain what fire safety precautions you should take when you are in a public building.
7. Do the following:
- a. Demonstrate lighting a match safely.
 - b. Demonstrate the safe way to start a charcoal fire.
 - c. Demonstrate how to safely light a candle. Discuss with your counselor how to safely use candles.
8. Explain the difference between combustible and noncombustible liquids and between combustible and noncombustible fabrics.
9. Do the following:
- a. Demonstrate the safe way to fuel a lawn mower.
 - b. Demonstrate the safety factors, such as proper ventilation, for auxiliary heating devices and the proper way to fuel those devices.
10. Do the following:
- a. Explain the cost of outdoor and wildland fires and how to prevent them.
 - b. Demonstrate setting up and putting out a cooking fire.
 - c. Demonstrate using a camp stove and lantern.
 - d. Explain how to set up a campsite safe from fire.
11. Visit a fire station. Identify the types of fire trucks. Find out about the fire prevention activities in your community.
12. Choose a fire safety-related career that interests you and describe the level of education required and responsibilities of a person in that position. Tell why this position interests you.

Fire Safety Resources

Scouting Literature

Camping, Cooking, Emergency Preparedness, First Aid, 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

Bell, Karen Magnuson. *Fire in Their Eyes: Wildfires and the People Who Fight Them*. Harcourt, 1999.

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Halberstam, David. *Firehouse*. Hyperion, 2003.

Landau, Elaine. *Fires*. Scholastic Library Publishing, 2000.

McCourt, D.E. *Notes From the Firehouse: Seventeen Firefighting Stories From a Retired Firefighter*. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2011.

National Commission on Fire Prevention and Control. *America Burning*. Lulu.com, 2014.

Patent, Dorothy Hinshaw. *Fire: Friend or Foe*. Clarion Books, 1998.

Preston, Timothy. *A Homeowner's Survival Guide to Fire Safety*. Liberty, 1991.

Shapiro, Larry. *Fighting Fire: Trucks, Tools and Tactics*. Motorbooks, 2008.

Yoder, Curt. *The Heart Behind the Hero*. Stoney Creek Press, 2000.

Organizations, Government Agencies, and Websites

Federal Emergency Management Agency

Toll-free telephone: 202-646-2500

Website: <http://www.fema.gov>

FireDepartment.net

Website: <http://www.firedepartment.net>

National Association of State Fire Marshals

Telephone: 617-737-1226

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

National Fire Protection Association

Telephone: 617-770-3000

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

Safe Kids Worldwide

Telephone: 202-662-0600

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

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Telephone: 301-504-7923

Website: <http://www.cpsc.gov>

U.S. Fire Administration

Telephone: 301-447-1000

Website: <http://www.usfa.fema.gov>

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