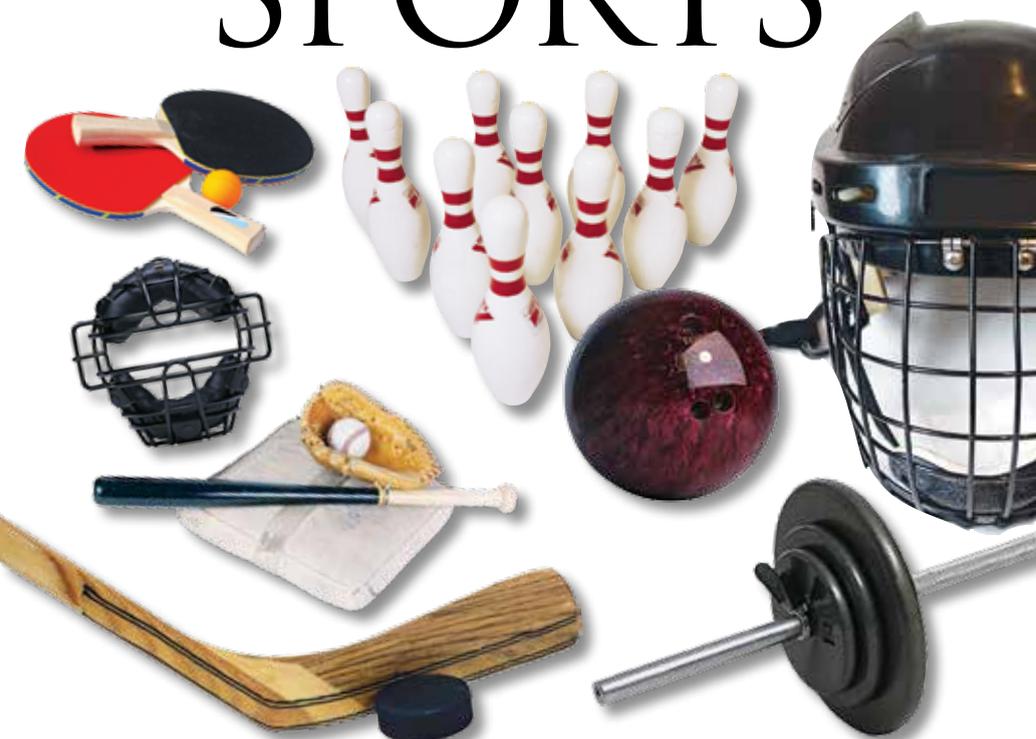


MERIT BADGE SERIES



SPORTS



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
MERIT BADGE SERIES

SPORTS



"Enhancing our youths' competitive edge through merit badges"



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®



Sports

Note: The activities used to fulfill the requirements for the Sports merit badge may not be used to help fulfill requirements for other merit badges.

1. Do the following:
 - (a) Explain to your counselor the most likely hazards you may encounter while playing sports, and what you should do to anticipate, help prevent, mitigate, and respond to these hazards.
 - (b) Show that you know first aid for injuries or illnesses that could occur while participating in sports, including sprains, strains, contusions, abrasions, fractures, blisters, muscle cramps, injured teeth, dehydration, heat and cold reactions, and concussions or other suspected injuries to the head, neck, and back.

2. Explain the importance of the following:
 - (a) The importance of the physical exam
 - (b) The importance of maintaining good health habits for life (such as exercising regularly), and how the use of tobacco products, alcohol, and other harmful substances can negatively affect your health and your performance in sports activities
 - (c) The importance of maintaining a healthy diet
3. Discuss the following:
 - (a) The importance of warming up and cooling down
 - (b) The importance of weight training
 - (c) What an amateur athlete is and the differences between an amateur and a professional athlete
 - (d) The attributes (qualities) of a good sport, the importance of sportsmanship, and the traits of a good team leader and player who exhibits Scout spirit on and off the playing field
4. With guidance from your counselor, establish a personal training program suited to the activities you choose for requirement 5. Then do the following:
 - (a) Create a chart and use it to track your training, practice, and development in these sports for one season (or four months).
 - (b) Demonstrate proper technique for your two chosen sports.
 - (c) At the end of the season, share your completed chart with your counselor and discuss how your participation in the sports you chose has affected you mentally and physically.
5. Take part for one season (or four months) as a competitive individual or as a member of an organized team in TWO of the following sports: baseball, basketball, bowling, cross-country, field hockey, football, golf, gymnastics, ice hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball, swimming, table tennis, tennis, track and field, volleyball, water polo, wrestling. Your counselor may approve in advance other recognized sports, but not any sport that is restricted and not authorized by the Boy Scouts of America. Then with your chosen sports do the following:
 - (a) Give the rules and etiquette for the two sports you picked.
 - (b) List the equipment needed for the two sports you chose. Describe the protective equipment and appropriate clothing (if any) and explain why it is needed.
 - (c) Draw diagrams of the playing areas for your two sports.

Sports Resources

Scouting Literature

Boy Scout Handbook; Deck of First Aid; Emergency First Aid pocket guide; Be Prepared First Aid Book; Archery, Athletics, Canoeing, Climbing, Cycling, First Aid, Golf, Horsemanship, Kayaking, Personal Fitness, Rowing, Safety, Scuba Diving, Skating, Small-Boat Sailing, Snow Sports, Swimming, and Water Sports merit badge pamphlets

For more information about Scouting-related resources, visit the BSA's online retail catalog (with your parent's permission) at <http://www.scoutstuff.org>.

Books

- Bauer, Gerhard. *New Soccer Techniques, Tactics & Teamwork*. Sterling Publishing, 2002.
- Dearing, Joel. *Volleyball Fundamentals*. Human Kinetics, 2003.
- Dintiman, George Blough. *Speed Improvement for Young Athletes: How to Sprint Faster in Your Sport in 30 Workouts*. National Association of Speed and Explosion, 2006.
- Driver, Bruce. *The Baffled Parent's Guide to Coaching Youth Hockey*. International Marine/Ragged Mountain Press, 2004.
- Faigenbaum, Avery D., and Wayne L. Westcott. *Youth Strength Training: Programs for Health, Fitness and Sport*. Human Kinetics, 2009.
- Fortin, Francois. *Sports: The Complete Visual Reference*. Firefly Books, 2003.
- Greene, Larry. *Training for Young Distance Runners*. Human Kinetics, 2004.
- Hammond, Tim. *Sports*. Dorling Kindersley Eyewitness Books, 2005.
- Heitzmann, Ray. *Careers for Sports Nuts & Other Athletic Types*. McGraw-Hill, 2004.
- Lancaster, Scott. *Athletic Fitness for Kids*. Human Kinetics, 2007.
- McIntosh, Ned. *Managing Little League*. McGraw-Hill, 2008.
- Micheli, Lyle, and Mark Jenkins. *The Sports Medicine Bible for Young Athletes*. Source Books Inc., 2001.
- Paye, Burrall, and Patrick Paye. *Youth Basketball Drills*. Human Kinetics, 2000.

Plays, F.B. *Unbeatable Flag Football Plays*. Kindle Edition, 2011.

Werner, Doug. *Bowler's Start-up: A Beginner's Guide to Bowling*. Tracks Publishing, 1995.

Organizations and Websites

American College of Sports Medicine

401 West Michigan St.
Indianapolis, IN 46202-3233
Telephone: 317-637-9200
Website: <http://www.acsm.org>

American Council on Exercise

Toll-free telephone: 888-825-3636
Website: <http://www.acefitness.org>

American Sport Education Program

Telephone: 217-351-5076
Website: <http://www.asep.com>

Institute for International Sport— National Sportsmanship Day

Website: <http://www.internationalsport.com/nsd/nsd.cfm>

National Youth Sports Safety Foundation

One Beacon St., Suite 3333
Boston, MA 02108
Telephone: 617-277-1171
Website: <http://www.nyssf.org>

Acknowledgments

The Boy Scouts of America is grateful to the following for their assistance in preparing this revised and updated edition of the *Sports* merit badge pamphlet:

- Lynn Harmon, ACE-certified personal trainer

- Benone “Ben” Cristian Grigore, technical/coaching development director, USA Table Tennis
- Tom Tracey, director of officials, Collegiate Water Polo Association

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.

Photo and Illustration Credits

GettyImages/Lawrence Sawyer—page 57

GettyImages/Karl Weatherly—pages 80 (*inset*) and 88

HAAP Media Ltd., courtesy—cover (*field hockey mask, table tennis paddles and ball*); page 52

©2005 Jupiterimages Corporation—cover (*football, weights, catcher's mask, lacrosse equipment*); pages 2–3 (*both*), 18, 25, 32 (*all*), 34 (*inset*), 37, 39 (*top*), 41 (*bottom both*), 42, 44 (*top*), 47 (*both*), 56, 61 (*soccer ball*), 63, 67 (*both*), 69 (*right*), 75 (*both*), 78, and 87

©1996 PhotoDisc Inc.—page 38

©Photos.com—cover (*tennis ball, soccer ball, bowling ball and pins, hockey stick and puck, baseball equipment*); pages 11, 14–15 (*all*), 29, 40, 45, 48 (*all*), 61 (*top*), and 90

STX Field Hockey, courtesy—page 54

U.S. Department of Agriculture, courtesy—page 12 (*illustration*)