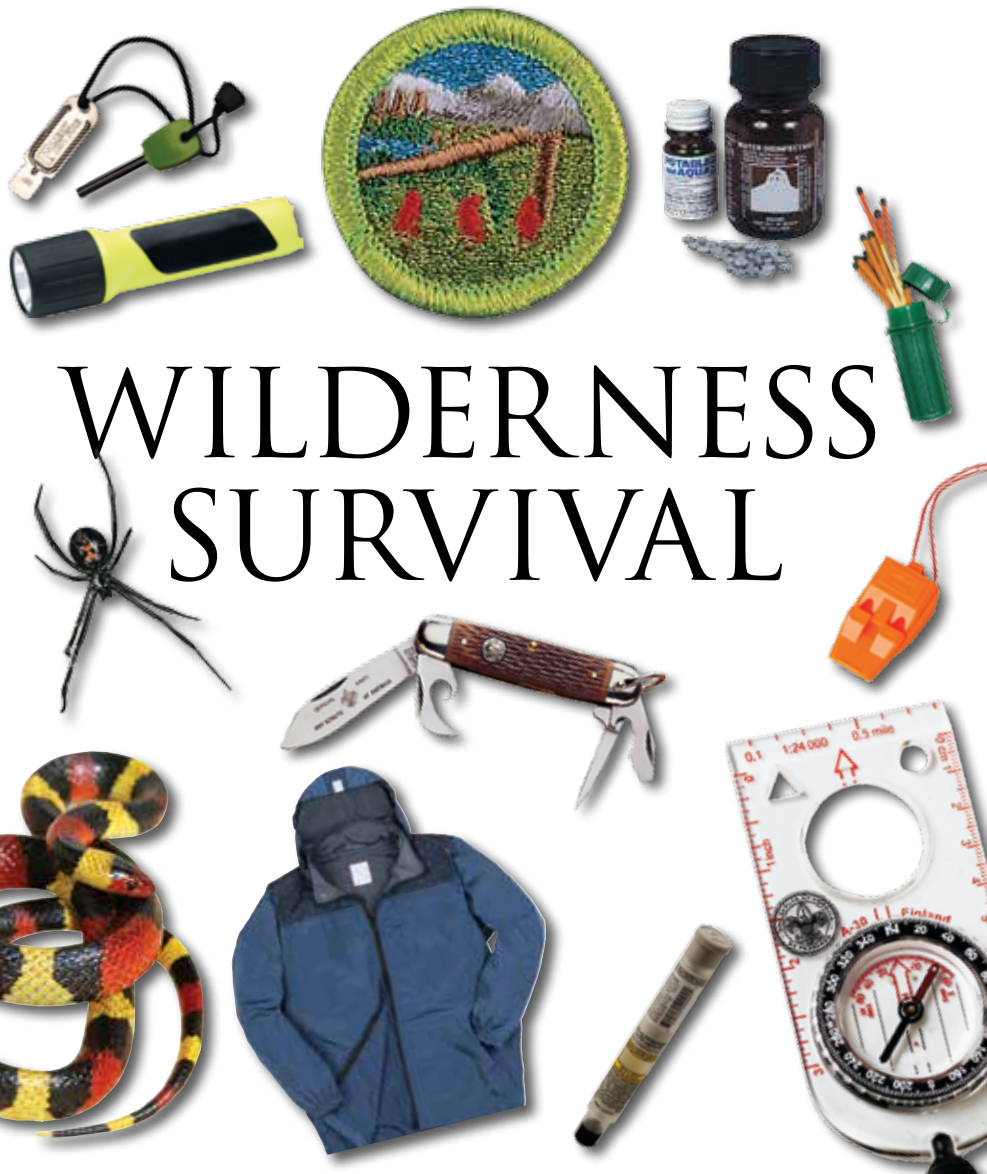


# MERIT BADGE SERIES



# WILDERNESS SURVIVAL



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MERIT BADGE SERIES

# WILDERNESS SURVIVAL



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



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# Requirements

1. Do the following:
  - a. Explain to your counselor the hazards you are most likely to encounter while participating in wilderness survival activities, and what you should do to anticipate, help prevent, mitigate, or lessen these hazards.
  - b. Show that you know first aid for and how to prevent injuries or illnesses that could occur in backcountry settings, including hypothermia, heat reactions, frostbite, dehydration, blisters, insect stings, tick bites, and snakebites.
2. From memory, list the seven priorities for survival in a backcountry or wilderness location. Explain the importance of each one with your counselor.
3. Discuss ways to avoid panic and maintain a high level of morale when lost, and explain why this is important.
4. Describe the steps you would take to survive in the following conditions:
  - a. Cold and snowy
  - b. Wet (forest)
  - c. Hot and dry (desert)
  - d. Windy (mountains or plains)
  - e. Water (ocean, lake, or river)

5. Put together a personal survival kit and explain how each item in it could be useful.
6. Using three different methods (other than matches), build and light three fires.
7. Do the following:
  - a. Show five different ways to attract attention when lost.
  - b. Demonstrate how to use a signal mirror.
  - c. Describe from memory five ground-to-air signals and tell what they mean.
8. Improvise a natural shelter. For the purpose of this demonstration, use techniques that have little negative impact on the environment. Spend a night in your shelter.
9. Explain how to protect yourself from insects, reptiles, and bears.
10. Demonstrate three ways to treat water found in the outdoors to prepare it for drinking.
11. Show that you know the proper clothing to wear in your area on an overnight in extremely hot weather and in extremely cold weather.
12. Explain why it usually is not wise to eat edible wild plants or wildlife in a wilderness survival situation.



# Wilderness Survival Resources

## Scouting Literature

*Boy Scout Handbook; Fieldbook; Deck of First Aid; Emergency First Aid* pocket guide; *Basic Illustrated Wilderness First Aid; Be Prepared First Aid Book; Backpacking, Camping, Canoeing, Emergency Preparedness, First Aid, Lifesaving, Orienteering, Safety, Search and Rescue, Signs, Signals, and Codes*, and *Weather* 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

Curtis, Rick. *The Backpacker's Field Manual: A Comprehensive Guide to Mastering Backcountry Skills*. Three Rivers Press, 2005.

Forgey, William W. *Wilderness Medicine: Beyond First Aid.*, Falcon Guides, 2012.

Gill, Paul G. *Wilderness First Aid*. Ragged Mountain Press, 2001.

Harvey, Mark. *National Outdoor Leadership School's Wilderness Guide: The Classic Handbook*. Fireside, 1999.

Isaac, Jeffrey. *The Outward Bound Wilderness First Aid Handbook*, 4th ed. Falcon Guides, 2013.

Keller, William. *Keller's Outdoor Survival Guide: How to Prevail When Lost, Stranded, or Injured in the Wilderness*. Willow Creek Press, 2001.

Nickens, T. Edward. *The Total Outdoorsman Manual*. Welden Owen, 2013.

Randall, Glenn. *Outward Bound Map and Compass Handbook*, 3rd ed. FalconGuides, 2012.

Tawrell, Paul. *Camping and Survival: The Ultimate Outdoors Book*. Paul Tawrell, 2011.

Tilton, Buck. *Wilderness First Responder: How to Recognize, Treat, and Prevent Emergencies in the Backcountry*. Falcon Guides, 2010.

Wells, Darran. *Wilderness Navigation*, 2nd ed. Stackpole Books, 2013.

## Videos

*More Wilderness 911*. DVD.

Wellspring Media, 1998.

*Survival Basics 1 and 2, The Adventure*.

DVD. Stoney-Wolf Productions, 2006.

*Survival: Learn to Become a*

*Survivor in the Wild*. DVD. BFS

Entertainment, 2001.

*The Unexplained—Wilderness Survival*.

DVD. A&E Home Video, 2006.

## Organizations and Websites

### Association of Outdoor Recreation and Education

Telephone: 810-299-2782

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

### Backpacker Magazine

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

### Equipped to Survive

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

### Guide to Safe Scouting on Scouting.org

Website: [http://www.scouting.org/](http://www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/GSS.aspx)

[HealthandSafety/GSS.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety/GSS.aspx)

### National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS)

Toll-free telephone: 800-710-6657

Website: <http://www.nols.edu>

### Outside Magazine

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

### Wilderness Education Association

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

Toll-free telephone: 800-572-3015

### Wildwood Survival

Website:

<http://www.wildwoodsurvival.com>

## Acknowledgments

The Boy Scouts of America thanks Patrick “Rick” LaValla, president and cofounder of ERI International Inc., Olympia, Washington, for his assistance with this new edition of the *Wilderness Survival* merit badge pamphlet. ERI International specializes in disaster planning, emergency response, search and rescue, survival, and other such fields.

Thanks also to members of the BSA Health and Safety Committee for their help in reviewing the manuscript. In particular, we thank George Allen, M.D.; David Bell, Ph.D.; William W. Forgey, M.D.; John E. Hendrickson; William Hurst; Charles H. Mitchell; Arthur H. Mittelstaedt Jr., Ed.D.; and Paul Young, R.S., M.P.H.

We appreciate support from the American Red Cross, in particular Ted Crites for his input and expertise. Thanks to the troops of the Chief Seattle (Washington) Council for their assistance with photography. We thank staff members at the council’s Camp Parsons, Brinnon, Washington, for their cooperation, as well.

We are thankful to Thomas R. Welch, M.D., professor and chair, Department of Pediatrics at Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, New York, for providing the information about thumbnail navigation.

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.