BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
MERIT BADGE SERIES

FAMILY LIFE

“Enhancing our youths’ competitive edge through merit badges”

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
Note to the Counselor

Some of the issues surrounding requirement 6 for the family meeting could be considered of a personal nature. Use discretion when reviewing this requirement with the Scout.
Requirements

Always check www.scouting.org for the latest requirements.

1. Prepare an outline on what a family is and discuss this with your merit badge counselor. Tell why families are important to individuals and to society. Discuss how the actions of one member can affect other members.

2. List several reasons why you are important to your family and discuss this with your parents or guardians and with your merit badge counselor.

3. Prepare a list of your regular home duties or chores (at least five) and do them for 90 days. Keep a record of how often you do each of them. Discuss with your counselor the effect your chores had on your family.

4. With the approval of your parents or guardians and your merit badge counselor, decide on and carry out a project that you would do around the home that would benefit your family. Discuss your report with your merit badge counselor.

5. Plan and carry out a project that involves the participation of your family. After completing the project, discuss the following with your merit badge counselor:
   a. The objective or goal of the project
   b. How individual members of your family participated
   c. The results of the project
6. Do the following:
   a. Discuss with your merit badge counselor how to plan and carry out a family meeting.
   b. Prepare a meeting agenda that includes the following topics, review it with your parents or guardians, and then carry out one or more family meetings:
      (1) How living the principles of the Scout Oath and Scout Law contributes to your family life
      (2) The greatest dangers and addictions facing youth in today’s society (examples include use of tobacco products, alcohol, or drugs and other items such as debts, social media, etc.)
      (3) Understanding the growing-up process and how the body changes, and making responsible decisions dealing with sex
      (4) Personal and family finances
      (5) A crisis situation within your family
      (6) The effect of technology on your family
      (7) Good etiquette and manners
      Discussion of each of these subjects may carry over to more than one family meeting.

7. Discuss with your counselor your understanding of what makes an effective parent and why, and your thoughts on the parent’s role and responsibilities in the family.

*This conversation may take place with only one or both of your parents or guardians.*
Family Life Resources

Scouting Literature

With your parent's permission, visit the Boy Scouts of America's official retail website, www.scoutshop.org, for a complete listing of all merit badge pamphlets and other helpful Scouting materials and supplies.

Books


**Organizations**

**American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences**
400 N. Columbus St., Suite 202
Alexandria, VA 22314
Toll-free telephone: 800-424-8080
www.aafcs.org

**American Red Cross**
431 18th Street NW
Washington, DC 20006
Telephone: 202-303-4498
www.redcross.org

**American Red Cross**
431 18th Street NW
Washington, DC 20006
Telephone: 202-303-4498
www.redcross.org

**Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America**
1910 Association Drive
Reston, VA 20191-1584
Telephone: 703-476-4900
www.fcclainc.org

**National Council on Family Relations**
661 LaSalle Street, Suite 200
Saint Paul, MN 55114
Telephone: 888-781-9331
www.ncfr.org

**Other Websites**

**Bright Horizons Family Solutions**
www.brighthorizons.com/family-resources

**KidsHelpLine**
kidshelpline.com.au/