

# MERIT BADGE SERIES



# PHOTOGRAPHY



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA  
MERIT BADGE SERIES

# PHOTOGRAPHY



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



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

# Requirements

1. Safety. Do the following:
  - a. Show your counselor your current Cyber Chip.
  - b. Explain to your counselor the most likely hazards you may encounter while working with photography and what you should do to anticipate, mitigate, prevent, and respond to these hazards. Explain how you would prepare for exposure to environmental situations such as weather, sun, and water.
2. Explain how the following elements and terms can affect the quality of a picture:
  - a. Light—natural light (ambient/existing), low light (such as at night), and artificial light (such as from a flash)
  - b. Exposure—aperture (f-stops), shutter speed, ISO
  - c. Depth of field
  - d. Composition—rule of thirds, leading lines, framing, depth
  - e. Angle of view
  - f. Stop action and blur motion
  - g. Decisive moment (action or expression captured by the photographer)
3. Explain the basic parts and operation of a camera. Explain how an exposure is made when you take a picture.
4. Do TWO of the following, then share your work with your counselor.
  - a. Photograph one subject from two different angles or perspectives.
  - b. Photograph one subject from two different light sources—artificial and natural.
  - c. Photograph one subject with two different depths of field.
  - d. Photograph one subject with two different compositional techniques.

5. Photograph THREE of the following, then share your work with your counselor.
  - a. Close-up of a person
  - b. Two to three people interacting
  - c. Action shot
  - d. Animal shot
  - e. Nature shot
  - f. Picture of a person—candid, posed, or camera aware
6. Describe how software allows you to enhance your photograph after it is taken. Select a photo you have taken, then do ONE of the following, and share what you have done with your counselor.
  - a. Crop your photograph.
  - b. Adjust the exposure or make a color correction.
  - c. Show another way you could improve your picture for impact.
7. Using images other than those created for requirements 4, 5, and 6, produce a visual story to document an event to photograph OR choose a topic that interests you to photograph. Do the following:
  - a. Plan the images you need to photograph for your photo story.
  - b. Share your plan with your counselor, and get your counselor's input and approval before you proceed.
  - c. Select eight to 12 images that best tell your story. Arrange your images in order and mount the prints on a poster board, OR create an electronic presentation. Share your visual story with your counselor.
8. Identify three career opportunities in photography. Pick one and explain to your counselor how to prepare for such a career. Discuss what education and training are required, and why this profession might interest you.

# Photography Resources

## Scouting Literature

*Art, Communication, Journalism, Moviemaking, and Theater* merit badge pamphlets

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

## Books

- Burian, Peter K., and Robert Caputo. *Photography Field Guide: Secrets to Making Great Pictures*, 2nd ed. National Geographic, 2003.
- Busch, David D. *Mastering Digital SLR Photography*. Cengage Learning PTR, 4th ed., 2014.
- Davies, Paul Harcourt. *The Complete Guide to Close-Up & Macro Photography*. David & Charles, 2002.
- Eastman Kodak Company, editors. *The Joy of Photography*. Perseus Publishing, 1991.
- Frost, Lee. *Teach Yourself Photography*, 2nd ed. McGraw-Hill, 2008.
- Grimm, Tom, and Michele Grimm. *The Basic Book of Digital Photography: How to Shoot, Enhance, and Share Your Digital Pictures*. Plume, 2009.
- Kelby, Scott. *The Digital Photography Book: Part 1*, 2nd ed. Peachpit Press, 2013.
- . *The Photoshop Elements 14 Book for Digital Photographers*. New Riders, 2015.
- London, Barbara, John Upton, et al. *Photography*, 11th ed. Pearson, 2013.
- Long, Ben. *Complete Digital Photography*, 8th ed. Cengage Learning PTR, 2014.
- Norton, Boyd. *Boyd Norton's Outdoor Digital Photography Handbook: How to Shoot Like a Pro*. Voyageur Press, 2010.
- Peterson, Bryan. *Understanding Exposure: How to Shoot Great Photographs With Any Camera*, 4th rev. ed. Amphoto Books, 2016.
- . *Understanding Shutter Speed: Creative Action and Low-Light Photography Beyond 1/125 Second*. Amphoto Books, 2008.

Sammon, Rick. *Rick Sammon's Complete Guide to Digital Photography: 107 Lessons on Taking, Making, Editing, Storing, Printing, and Sharing Better Digital Images*, 2nd ed. W.W. Norton, 2007.

Shaw, John. *John Shaw's Guide to Digital Nature Photography*. Amphoto Books, 2015.

Stuckey, Scott. *National Geographic Ultimate Field Guide to Travel Photography*. National Geographic, 2010.

Tharp, Brenda. *Extraordinary Everyday Photography: Awaken Your Vision to Create Stunning Images Wherever You Are*. Amphoto Books, 2012.

## Periodicals

*Digital Photo Pro*  
Telephone: 617-706-9110  
Website:  
<http://www.digitalphotopro.com>

*News Photographer*  
Telephone: 706-542-2506  
Website: <http://nppa.org/page/news-photographer-digital-archive>

*Popular Photography*  
Website: <http://www.popphoto.com>

*Shutterbug*  
Telephone: 321-269-3212  
Website: <http://www.shutterbug.com>

## Organizations and Websites

**American Society of Picture Professionals**  
201 East 25th St., No. 11C  
New York, NY 10010  
Telephone: 516-500-3686  
Website: <http://aspp.com>

**Canon USA**  
Website: <http://learn.usa.canon.com>  
Learn by studying great photography tips from the pros.

**International Association of Panoramic Photographers**  
Website:  
<http://www.panoramicaassociation.org>

**National Press Photographers Association**  
120 Hooper St.  
Athens, GA 30602-3018  
Telephone: 706-542-3018  
Website: <https://nppa.org>  
The National Press Photographers Association has a provision for student membership, and <http://competitions.nppa.org> has a monthly clip contest where you can study award-winning photographs and videos.

**National Press Photographers Foundation**  
Website: <http://nppg.org>  
The National Press Photographers Foundation funds college scholarships for students who are enrolled in four-year programs. See the website for details of how to enter.

**Photographic Society of America**  
8241 S. Walker Ave., Suite 104  
Oklahoma City, OK 73139  
Telephone: 855-772-4636  
Website: <http://psa-photo.org>

**Professional Photographers of America**

229 Peachtree St. NE, Suite 2200  
 Atlanta, GA 30303  
 Telephone: 404-522-8600  
 Website: <http://ppa.com>

**Visual Storytelling**

Website: <http://storytellingonline.info>  
 Dr. James Brown’s website featuring composition tips and more, using many Scouting examples.

**White House News Photographers Association**

Website: <http://whnpa.org>

**Acknowledgments**

The Boy Scouts of America thanks the following members of the National Merit Badge Subcommittee, who diligently worked to develop the merit badge requirements and content for this pamphlet.

**James W. Brown, Ph.D.**—team lead; Eagle Scout; Silver Beaver recipient; executive associate dean emeritus, Indiana University School of Journalism; scholarships chair and board member, National Press Photographers Foundation; recipient of many photography awards including gold and bronze medals at the International Film and TV Festival of New York.

**David Carlson**—photography lead; Eagle Scout; Silver Beaver recipient; member of Camera Craftsmen of America; award-winning master photographer with more than 30 years of experience; advisor at Canon USA Inc.

**Randy Piland**—Eagle Scout; 30-year professional photojournalist and former U.S. Army photojournalist; college-level photojournalism and publication design teacher; experience includes covering numerous world and national Scout jamborees.

**Steve Bowen**—Distinguished Eagle Scout; Silver Buffalo recipient; chair, New Merit Badge Task Force; member, Advancement and Program Content committees.



**Michael Roytek, BSA staff photographer; Master Photographer David Carlson; Janice Downey, BSA senior strategic innovation; Randy Piland, freelance photographer; and Jim Brown, Ph.D., executive associate dean emeritus, Indiana University School of Journalism**