

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA
MERIT BADGE SERIES

RAILROADING



"Enhancing our youths' competitive edge through merit badges"



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

Requirements

1. Do THREE of the following:
 - a. Name three types of modern freight trains. Explain why unit trains are more efficient than mixed freight trains.
 - b. Name one Class I or regional railroad. Explain what major cities it serves, the locations of major terminals, service facilities and crew change points, and the major commodities it carries.
 - c. Using models or pictures, identify 10 types of railroad freight or passenger cars. Explain the purpose of each type of car.
 - d. Explain how a modern diesel or electric locomotive develops power. Explain the terms dynamic braking and radial steering trucks.

2. Do the following:
 - a. Explain the purpose and formation of Amtrak. Explain, by the use of a timetable, a plan for making a trip by rail between two cities at least 500 miles apart. List the times of departure and arrival at your destination, the train number and name, and the type of service you want.
 - b. List and explain the various forms of public/mass transit using rail.

3. Do ONE of the following:
 - a. Name four departments of a railroad company. Describe what each department does.
 - b. Tell about the opportunities in railroading that interest you most and why.
 - c. Name four rail support industries. Describe the function of each one.
 - d. With your parent's and counselor's approval, interview someone employed in the rail industry. Learn what that person does and how this person became interested in railroading. Find out what type of schooling and training are required for this position.

4. Do the following:
 - a. Explain the purpose of Operation Lifesaver and its mission.
 - b. List 9 track basic safety tips to remember when you are around a railroad track.
 - c. List 9 safety considerations that should be followed when walking near a railroad track.
 - d. Tell your counselor what a driver can do safely operate near tracks.
 - e. Explain safety precautions when using a light rail or commuter train.
5. Explain the appearance and meaning of the following rail signs and signals:
 - a. Passive signs and active signs.
 - b. Devices at the crossing (flashing red lights — with or without bells, flashing red lights and gates, and cantilever flashing lights)
 - c. Markings on the road (pavement markings and stop bars)
 - d. Signs before the crossing (advance warning sign, advance warning sign for side streets, no train horn sign, and low ground clearance grade crossing sign)
 - e. Signs along the railroad property (no trespassing sign)
 - f. Signs at the crossing (crossbuck sign, emergency notification system sign, multiple track sign, stop sign, and yield sign).
6. Do EACH of the following:
 - a. Explain how railroad signals operate and show two basic signal types using color or configuration.
 - b. Explain the meaning of three horn signals.
 - c. Describe a way to signal a train for an emergency stop.
 - d. Explain the use and function of the EOTD (end-of-train device), or FRED (flashing rear end device), used on the last car of most freight trains.
7. Select ONE of the following special-interest areas and complete the requirements.
 - a. **Model Railroading**

With your parent's and counselor's approval, do TWO of the following:

 - (1) Draw a layout of your own model railroad or one that could be built in your home. Design a point-to-point track or loop with different routings. Include one of the following: turnaround or terminal or yard or siding.
 - (2) Build one model railroad car kit or one locomotive kit.

- (3) Name the scale of four popular model railroad gauges. Identify the scale of four model cars or locomotives.
- (4) Locate the website of four model railroad-related manufacturers or magazine publishers. Print information on their products and services and discuss the information with your counselor.
- (5) Build one railroad structure (from scratch or using a kit), paint and weather the structure, mount it on your layout or diorama, and make the surrounding area on the diorama scenic.
- (6) Alone or with others, build a model railroad or modular layout including ballast and scenery. Make electrical connections and operate a train. Describe what you enjoyed most.
- (7) Participate in a switching contest on a timesaver layout and record your time.
- (8) Explain the difference between powering and controlling a model railroad by using direct current, and powering and controlling a model railroad using digital command control.

b. **Railfanning**

With your parent's and counselor's approval, do TWO of the following:

- (1) Visit a railroad museum, historical display, or a prototype railroad-sponsored public event. With permission, photograph, digitally record, or sketch items of interest. Explain what you saw and describe your photos, sketches, or video.
- (2) Purchase tickets and ride a scenic or historic railroad. Under supervision, photograph the equipment and discuss with your counselor the historic significance of the operation.
- (3) Locate the website of four rail historical groups, then find information on the history of the rail preservation operations and purpose of each group. Talk with a member of one of the groups and find out how you might help.
- (4) Plan a trip by rail between two points. Obtain a schedule and explain when the train should arrive at two intermediate points. Purchase the tickets and make the trip. Explain to your counselor what you saw.

Resources About Railroading

Scouting Literature

Engineering and Model Design and Building merit badge pamphlets

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

- Ambrose, Stephen E. *Nothing Like It in the World: The Men Who Built the Transcontinental Railroad 1863–1869*. Simon & Schuster, 2000.
- Armstrong, John H. *The Railroad: What It Is, What It Does, The Introduction to Railroading*, 5th ed. Simmons-Boardman Books, 2008.
- Blumberg, Rhoda. *Full Steam Ahead: The Race to Build a Transcontinental Railroad*. National Geographic Society, 1996.
- Drury, George H., and Bob Hayden. *Guide to Tourist Railroads and Railroad Museums 2002*, 37th ed. Kalmbach Publishing Company, 2002.
- Frery, Dave. *How to Build Realistic Model Railroad Scenery*, 3rd ed. Kalmbach Publishing Company, 2005.
- Hubbard, Freeman. *Encyclopedia of North American Railroading: 150 Years of Railroading in the United States and Canada*. McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1981.
- Kelly, Jim, and Michael Emmerich. *HO Railroad From Start to Finish (Model Railroad Handbook, No. 36)*. Kalmbach Publishing Company, 1993.
- Miller, Allan W., ed. *Model Railroad Resources: A Where-to-Find-It Guide for the Hobbyist*. Krause Publications, 2000.
- Schleicher, Robert. *The HO Model Railroading Handbook: Build an Exciting HO Layout the Easy, Inexpensive Way*, 3rd ed. Krause Publications, 1998.
- Solomon, Brian. *The Heritage of North American Steam Railroads: From the First Days of Steam Power to the Present*. Reader's Digest, 2001.
- Stover, John F. *The Routledge Historical Atlas of the American Railroads*. Routledge, 1999.
- Vantuono, William C. *All About Railroading*, 2nd ed. Simmons-Boardman Books, 2006.

Magazines

Classic Trains

Kalmbach Publishing Company
P.O. Box 1612
Waukesha, WI 53187-1612
Toll-free telephone: 800-533-6644
Website: ctr.trains.com

Model Railroad News

Telephone: 877-787-2467
Website:
www.modelrailroadnews.com

Model Railroader

Kalmbach Publishing Company
P.O. Box 1612
Waukesha, WI 53187-1612
Toll-free telephone: 800-533-6644
Website: mrr.trains.com

Passenger Train Journal

Toll-free telephone: 877-787-2467
Website:
www.passengertrainjournal.com

Railfan & Railroad

White River Productions
Toll-free telephone: 877-787-2467
Website: www.railfan.com

Railroad Model Craftsman

White River Productions
Toll-free telephone: 877-787-2467
Website: www.rrmodelcraftsman.com

Railway Age

345 Hudson St.
New York, NY 10014
Website: www.railwayage.com

Trains

Kalmbach Publishing Company
P.O. Box 1612
Waukesha, WI 53187-1612
Toll-free telephone: 800-533-6644
Website: trn.trains.com

Trains & Railroads of the Past

Toll-free telephone: 877-787-2467
Website: www.trpmmagazine.com

Organizations and Websites

Amtrak

Toll-free telephone: 800-872-7245
Website: www.amtrak.com

Association of American Railroads

425 Third Street SW
Washington, DC 20024
Telephone: 202-639-2100
Website: www.aar.org

Federal Railroad Administration

1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20590
Website: www.fra.dot.gov

National Model Railroad Association

P.O. Box 1328
Soddy Daisy, TN 37384
Telephone: 423-892-2846
Website: www.nmra.org

National Railway Historical Society

505 South Lenola Road, Suite 226
Moorestown, NJ 08057
Telephone: 215-557-6606
Website: www.nrhs.com

Operation Lifesaver

425 Third St. SW, Suite 915
Washington, DC 20024
Toll-free telephone: 800-537-6224
Website: www.oli.org