

MERIT BADGE SERIES



THEATER



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

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"Enhancing our youths' competitive edge through merit badges"



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Requirements

1. See or read three full-length plays.* Write a review of each. Discuss with your counselor the plot or story. If you chose to watch the plays, comment on the acting and the staging.
2. Write a one-act play that will take at least 10 minutes to perform. The play must have a main character, conflict, and a climax.
3. Discuss with your counselor the safety precautions that should be practiced when working in a theater to protect the cast and crew. Then do THREE of the following:
 - a. Act a major part in a full-length play; or act a part in three one-act plays.
 - b. Direct a play. Cast, rehearse, and stage it. The play must be at least 10 minutes long.
 - c. Design the set for a play or a theatrical production. Make a model of it.
 - d. Design the costumes for five characters in a theatrical production set in a historical time.
 - e. Show skill in hair and makeup design. Make up yourself or a friend as a historical figure, a clown, an extraterrestrial, or a monster as directed.
 - f. With your counselor's approval, help with the building and painting of the scenery for a theatrical production.
 - g. With your counselor's approval, design the lighting for a play; or help install, focus, color, program, and operate the lighting for a theatrical production.
 - h. With your counselor's approval, help install, focus, equalize, program, and operate the sound for a theatrical production.

- i. Serve as the stage manager for a theatrical production. Document all cues and stage setups in your calling script.
- j. Serve as musical director for a musical theater production.
4. Mime or pantomime any ONE of the following, chosen by your counselor.
 - a. You have come into a large room. It is full of pictures, furniture, and other things of interest.
 - b. As you are getting on a bus, your books fall into a puddle. By the time you pick them up, the bus has driven off.
 - c. You have failed a school test. You are talking with your teacher, who does not buy your story.
 - d. You are at camp with a new Scout. You try to help them pass a cooking test. The Scout learns very slowly.
 - e. You are at a banquet. The meat is good. You don't like the vegetable. The dessert is ice cream.
 - f. You are a circus performer such as a juggler, high-wire artist, or lion tamer doing a routine.
5. Explain the following: proscenium arch, central or arena staging, center stage, stage right, stage left, downstage, upstage, stage crew, flies, portal, cyclorama, stage brace, spotlight, floodlight, lighting control board, sound mixing desk, thrust staging, ground plans, and sightlines.



*Watching plays on television, video, or as a movie is not permitted.

Theater Resources

Scouting Literature

Art, Communication, Journalism, Model Design and Building, Moviemaking, Painting, and Reading 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

- Aitken, Maria. *Style: Acting in High Comedy*. Applause, 1996.
- Bloom, Michael. *Thinking Like a Director: A Practical Handbook*. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2001.
- Brown, John Russell, ed. *The Oxford Illustrated History of Theatre*. Oxford University Press, 2001.
- Bruder, Melissa, et al. *A Practical Handbook for the Actor*. Vintage Books, 1986.
- Campbell, Drew. *Technical Theater for Nontechnical People*, 3rd ed. Allworth Press, 2016.
- Carter, Paul. *Backstage Handbook: An Illustrated Almanac of Technical Information*, 3rd ed. Broadway Press, 1994.
- Catron, Louis E., and Norman A. Bert. *The Elements of Playwriting*, 2nd ed. Waveland Press, 2017.
- Clurman, Harold. *On Directing*. Touchstone Books, 1997.
- Cohen, Edward M. *Working on a New Play*. Limelight Editions, 1995.
- Corson, Richard, James Glavan, and Beverly Gore Norcross. *Stage Makeup*, 10th ed. Routledge, 2009.
- Fraser, Neil. *Stage Lighting Explained*. Crowood Press, 2002.
- Gillette, J. Michael. *Theatrical Design and Production: An Introduction to Scenic Design and Construction, Lighting, Sound, Costume, and Makeup*, 7th ed. McGraw-Hill, 2012.
- Ingham, Rosemary, and Liz Covey. *The Costume Designer's Handbook*, 2nd ed. Heinemann, 1992.
- Kipnis, Claude. *The Mime Book*, 2nd ed. Meriwether Publishing, 1988.
- Korty, Carol. *Writing Your Own Plays: Creating, Adapting, Improvising*, 2nd ed. Players Press, 2000.
- Novelly, Maria C. *Theatre Games for Young Performers: Improvisations and Exercises for Developing Acting Skills*. Meriwether Publishing, 1985.
- Pecktal, Lynn. *Designing and Drawing for the Theatre*. McGraw-Hill, 1994.

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- Pennington, Lee. *The Actor's Edge*.
Marble Falls Press, 1995.
- Peterson, Lenka, and Dan O'Conner.
*Kids Take the Stage: Helping Young
People Discover the Creative Outlet
of Theater*. Back Stage Books, 1997.
- Smith, Ronn. *American Set Design 2*.
Theatre Communications Group,
1991.
- Swinfield, Rosemarie. *Stage Makeup
Step-By-Step*. Betterway Books,
1995.
- Walters, Graham. *Stage Lighting
Step-by-Step: The Complete Guide
on Setting the Stage With Light
to Get Dramatic Results*. Betterway
Books, 1997.
- Yager, Fred, and Jan Yager. *Career
Opportunities in the Film Industry*,
2nd ed. Checkmark Books, 2009.

Periodicals

Plays

897 Washington St. #600160
Newton, MA 02460
Telephone: 617-630-9100
Toll-free telephone: 800-630-5755
Website: www.playsmagazine.com

Organizations and Websites

American Association of Community Theatre

1300 Gendy St.
Fort Worth, TX 76107
Telephone: 817-732-3177
Website: <https://aact.org>

CreativeFuture

Website: <http://creativefuture.org>

Educational Theatre Association

4805 Montgomery Road, Suite 400
Cincinnati, Ohio 45212
Telephone: 513-421-3900
Website: www.schooltheatre.org

Masterpiece Theatre

Website: www.pbs.org/wgbh/masterpiece/about-masterpiece/

Metropolitan Museum of Art

Costume Institute
1000 Fifth Ave.
New York, NY 10028
Telephone: 212-535-7710
Website: www.metmuseum.org

Museum of the City of New York

Costume and Textiles Collection
1220 Fifth Ave.
New York, NY 10029
Telephone: 212-534-1672
Website: www.mcny.org/collections/costume-textiles

TheatreHistory.com

Website: www.theatrehistory.com

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