"Enhancing our youths’ competitive edge through merit badges"
Requirements

Choose THREE groups that have different racial, cultural, national, or ethnic backgrounds, one of which comes from your own background. Use these groups to meet requirements 1, 2, and 3.

1. Do TWO of the following, choosing a different group for each:
   a. Go to a festival, celebration, or other event identified with one of the groups. Report on what you see and learn.
   b. Go to a place of worship, school, or other institution identified with one of the groups. Report on what you see and learn.
   c. Talk with a person from one of the groups about the heritage and traditions of the group. Report on what you learn.
   d. Learn a song, dance, poem, or story that is traditional to one group, and teach it to a group of your friends.
   e. Go to a library or museum to see a program or exhibit featuring one group’s traditions. Report on what you see and learn.

2. Imagine that one of the groups had always lived alone in a city or country to which no other groups ever came. Tell what you think the city or country might be like today. Now tell what you think it might be like if the three groups you chose lived there at the same time.
3. Tell about some differences between the religious and social customs of the three groups. Tell about some ideas or ways of doing things that are similar in the three groups.

4. Tell about a contribution made to our country by three different people, each from a different racial, ethnic, or religious background.

5. Give a talk to your Scout unit or class at school on how people from different groups have gotten along together. Lead a discussion on what can be done to help various groups understand one another better.
Resources

Scouting Literature


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


Chelsea House Publishers. The Immigrant Experience. Separate books on American Indians, Puerto Ricans, and Czech, Greek, Jewish, Mexican, Polish, and other Americans.


Lucent Books. Immigrants in America. Sixteen titles on cultures including Russian Americans and Vietnamese Americans.


———. We Came to America. Mason Crest. Sixteen books depicting the unique challenges facing various ethnic groups as they came to the New World.


**Organizations and Websites**

Use the websites listed here as starting points for your research, or find information on particular cultures by searching for “_____ Americans” (replacing the blank with the ancestry group of interest, such as Cambodian, Pakistani, Welsh, etc.). Be sure to get your parent’s permission before you begin to surf.

**American Indian Studies**

Website: http://www.csulb.edu/colleges/cla/departments/ais

**America’s Story From America’s Library**

The Library of Congress  
Website: http://www.americaslibrary.gov

**Arab American Institute**

1600 K St. NW, Suite 601  
Washington, DC 20006  
Telephone: 202-429-9210  
Website: http://aaiusa.org

**Asian-Nation**

Website: http://www.asian-nation.org

**Digital History**

Website: http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu

**Immigration: The Living Mosaic of People, Culture, and Hope**

Website: http://library.thinkquest.org/20619

**Immigration: Stories of Yesterday and Today**

Website: http://teacher.scholastic.com/activities/immigration/

**Jewish-American History Foundation**

P.O. Box 760325  
Lathrup Village, MI 48076  
Website: http://www.jewish-history.com

**The Statue of Liberty–Ellis Island Foundation Inc.**

Attention: History Center  
17 Battery Place, Suite 210  
New York, NY 10004-3507  
Telephone: 212-561-4588  
Website: http://www.ellisisland.org

**Test of Courage**

Public Broadcasting Service  
Website: http://www.pbs.org/itvs/testofcourage/diversity4.html

**U.S. Census Bureau**

4700 Silver Hill Road  
Washington, DC 20233  
Website: http://www.census.gov