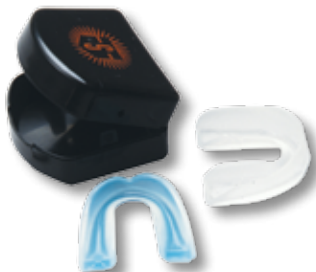
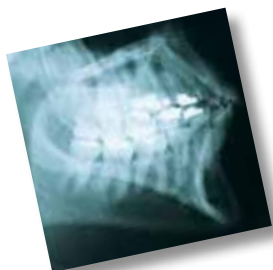
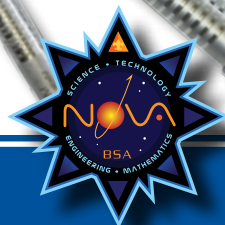


MERIT BADGE SERIES



DENTISTRY



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

STEM-Based

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MERIT BADGE SERIES

DENTISTRY

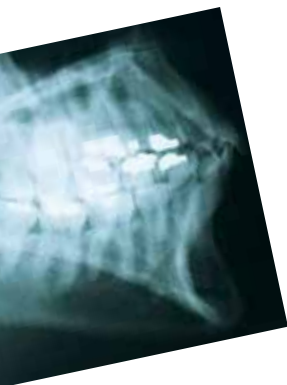


"Enhancing our youths' competitive edge through merit badges"



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Requirements



1. Using X-ray (radiographic) films and with your counselor's guidance, study the tooth structure and look for decay. Then do the following:
 - a. Using the radiographs as a guide, draw a lower molar. Label its parts and surfaces. Show surrounding structures such as bone and gum tissues.
 - b. Show on your drawing where the nerves and blood vessels enter the tooth.
 - c. Show on your drawing where bacterial plaque is most likely to be found.
2. Do the following:
 - a. Tell or write about what causes dental decay and gum disease. Tell how each of the following contributes to dental decay and gum disease: bacterial plaque, sugars, and acid.
 - b. Tell the possible causes for traumatic tooth loss, describe the types of mouth guards used to help prevent tooth trauma, and list the athletic activities during which a person should wear a mouth guard.
 - c. Explain the first-aid procedure for saving a tooth that has been knocked out.
 - d. Discuss how the use of tobacco products can negatively affect your oral health.
3. Arrange for a visit with a dentist. Before you go, ask whether your visit can include a dental examination and a plaque-control demonstration. Afterward, ask questions about things you want to know. Then tell your counselor what the dentist does during a checkup examination.



4. Do TWO of the following:
 - a. Name at least five instruments and five pieces of equipment a dentist uses.
 - b. With the help of a dentist, prepare a dental stone cast using a vibrator, a mixing bowl, a water measure, a plastic measure, model stone, and a spatula.
 - c. Keep a record of everything you eat for three days. Circle those items that may provide the sugars that bacterial plaque needs to make acid. List snacks that you should avoid to help maintain the best oral health.
5. Discuss with your merit badge counselor the following:
 - a. How fluorides help prevent tooth decay and the ways fluorides can be provided to the teeth.
 - b. How the mouth is related to the rest of the body. Topics might include chewing, saliva, enzymes, nutrition, and speech.
6. Do TWO of the following:
 - a. Make a model tooth out of soap, clay, papier-mâché, or wax. Using a string and a large hand brush, show your troop or a school class proper toothbrushing and flossing procedures.
 - b. Make a poster on the prevention of dental disease. Show the importance of good oral health.
 - c. Collect at least five advertisements for different toothpastes. List the claims that each one makes. Tell about the accuracy of the advertisements.
 - d. Write a feature story for your school newspaper on the proper care of teeth and gums. Include in your story how the use of tobacco products can negatively affect a person's oral health.
 - e. Make drawings and write about the progress of dental decay. Describe the types of dental filling and treatments a dentist can use to repair dental decay problems.
7. Find out about three career opportunities in dentistry. Pick one and find out the education, training, and experience required for this profession. Discuss this with your counselor, and explain why this profession might interest you.



Dentistry Resources

Scouting Literature

First Aid, Medicine, and Public Health merit badge pamphlets

For more information about or to order Scouting-related resources, visit the BSA's online retail catalog at <http://www.scoutstuff.org>.

Books

- Betancourt, Jeanne. *Smile! How to Cope with Your Braces*. Alfred A. Knopf, 1982.
- Brazis, D.D.S., Steven J. *Your Children's Teeth: A Parent's Guide to Saving Money at the Dentist*. CreateSpace, 2010.
- Breiner, Mark A. *Whole-Body Dentistry: Discover the Missing Piece to Better Health*. Quantum Health Press, 1999.
- Friedman, Jay W. *Complete Guide to Dental Health*. AuthorHouse, 2002.
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- Kulacz, D.D.S., Robert, and Thomas E. Levy, M.D., J.D. *The Roots of Disease: Connecting Dentistry & Medicine*. Xlibris, 2002.
- Lee, McHenry, Joleen Jackson, and Vicki J. Audette. *I Hate Dentists! The Feel Good Guide to Going to the Dentist*. IHD Publishing, 1999.
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- Taintor, Jerry F., and Mary Jane Taintor. *The Oral Report: The Consumer's Common Sense Guide to Better Dental Care*. Ballantine, 1989.
- Ward, Brian R. *Dental Care*. Franklin Watts, 1986.
- Wynbrandt, James. *The Excruciating History of Dentistry: Toothsome Tales and Oral Oddities From Babylon to Braces*. St. Martin's Press, 2000.

Organizations and Websites

Academy of General Dentistry

211 E. Chicago Ave., Suite 900
Chicago, IL 60611-1999
Toll-free telephone: 888-243-3368
Website: <http://www.agd.org>

American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry

Toll-free telephone: 800-543-9220
Website: <http://www.aacd.com>

American Academy of Dental Sleep Medicine

Telephone: 630-737-9761
Website: <http://www.aadsm.org>

American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Pathology

Toll-free telephone: 888-552-2667
Website: <http://www.aaomp.org>

American Academy of Oral and Maxillofacial Radiology

Telephone: 706-721-2607
Website: <http://www.aaomr.org>

American Academy of Pediatric Dentistry

Telephone: 312-337-2169
Website: <http://www.aapd.org>

American Academy of Periodontology

Telephone: 312-787-5518
Website: <http://www.perio.org>

American Association of Endodontists

Toll-free telephone: 800-872-3636
Website: <http://www.aae.org>

American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons

Telephone: 847-678-6200
Website: <http://www.aaoms.org>

American Association of Orthodontists

401 N. Lindbergh Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63141-7816
Telephone: 314-993-1700
Website: <http://www.braces.org>

American Association of Public Health Dentistry

P.O. Box 7536
Springfield, IL 62791-7536
Telephone: 217-391-0218
Website: <http://www.aaphd.org>

American College of Prosthodontists

Telephone: 312-573-1260
Website: <http://www.prosthodontics.org>

American Dental Assistants Association

35 E. Wacker Drive, Suite 1730
Chicago, IL 60601-2211
Telephone: 312-541-1550
Website: <http://www.dentalassistant.org>

American Dental Association

211 E. Chicago Ave.
Chicago, IL 60611-2678
Telephone: 312-440-2500
Website: <http://www.ada.org>

American Dental Education Association

1400 K St. NW, Suite 1100
Washington, DC 20005
Telephone: 202-289-7201
Website: <http://www.adea.org>

American Dental Hygienists' Association

444 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 3400
Chicago, IL 60611
Telephone: 312-440-8900
Website: <http://www.adha.org>

Academy of Comprehensive EstheticsWebsite: <http://www.ACEsthetics.com>**Dentalsite**Website: <http://www.dentalsite.com>**HealthWeb**Website: <http://www.healthweb.org>**Acknowledgments**

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