MERIT BADGE SERIES

INDIAN LORE

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
INDIAN LORE

“Enhancing our youths’ competitive edge through merit badges”
Requirements

1. Identify the different American Indian cultural areas. Explain what makes them each unique.

2. Give the history of one American Indian tribe, group, or nation that lives or has lived near you. Visit it, if possible. Tell about traditional dwellings, way of life, tribal government, religious beliefs, family and clan relationships, language, clothing styles, arts and crafts, food preparation, means of getting around, games, customs in warfare, where members of the group now live, and how they live.

3. Do TWO of the following. Focus on a specific group or tribe.
   a. Make an item of clothing worn by members of the tribe.
   b. Make and decorate three items used by the tribe, as approved by your counselor.
   c. Make an authentic model of a dwelling used by an Indian tribe, group, or nation.
   d. Visit a museum to see Indian artifacts. Discuss them with your counselor. Identify at least 10 artifacts by tribe or nation, their shape, size, and use.

4. Do ONE of the following:
   a. Learn three games played by a group or tribe. Teach and lead one game with a Scout group.
   b. Learn and show how a tribe traditionally cooked or prepared food. Make three food items.
   c. Give a demonstration showing how a specific Indian group traditionally hunted, fished, or trapped.
5. Do ONE of the following:
   a. Write or briefly describe how life might have been different for the European settlers if there had been no native Americans to meet them when they came to this continent.
   b. Sing two songs in an Indian language. Explain their meanings.
   c. Learn in an Indian language at least 25 common terms and their meanings.
   d. Show 25 signs in Indian sign language. Include those that will help you ask for water, for food, and where the path or road leads.
   e. Learn an Indian story of up to 300 words (or several shorter stories adding up to no more than 300 words). Tell the story or stories at a Scout gathering or campfire.
   f. Write or tell about eight things adopted by others from American Indians.
   g. Learn 25 Indian place names. Tell their origins and meanings.
   h. Name five well-known American Indian leaders, either from the past or people of today. Give their tribes or nations. Describe what they did or do now that makes them notable.
   i. Attend a contemporary American Indian gathering. Discuss with your counselor what you learned and observed. Include in your discussion any singing, dancing, drumming, and the various men’s and women’s dance styles you saw.
Indian Lore Resources

Scouting Literature


For more information about Scouting-related resources, visit (with your parent’s permission) the BSA’s retail website at http://www.scoutstuff.org.

Books


Horse Capture, George P., and Emil Her Many Horses, eds. *A Song for the Horse Nation: Horses in Native American Cultures.* Fulcrum, 2006.


**CDs and DVDs**


Pow Wow Trail, Episode 5: Grass Dance and Men’s Traditional. DVD. Arbor Records Ltd., 2006.


Organizations and Websites

American Museum of Natural History
Central Park West at 79th Street
New York, NY 10024-5192
Telephone: 212-769-5100
Website: http://www.amnh.org

One of the most famous museums in the world, the American Museum of Natural History has a series of exhibition halls exploring traditional cultures. Since its founding in 1869, the museum’s mission has been to discover, interpret, and make available information about human cultures, the natural world, and the universe.

Crazy Crow Trading Post
Toll-free telephone: 800-786-6210
Website: http://www.crazycrow.com

Heard Museum
2301 N. Central Ave.
Phoenix, AZ 85004-1323
Telephone: 602-252-8848
Website: http://www.heard.org

This world-renowned museum educates the public “about the heritage and the living cultures and arts of Native peoples, with an emphasis on the peoples of the Southwest.”

American Indian Heritage Foundation
P.O. Box 6301
Falls Church, VA 22040
Website: http://www.indians.org

This organization provides relief services to Native Americans throughout the nation and fosters an understanding relationship between Native and non-native peoples. The AIHF also coordinates scholarship programs for American Indian youth.
National Congress of American Indians
1301 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20036
Telephone: 202-466-7767
Website: http://www.ncai.org
This organization, founded in 1944, seeks “to preserve rights under Indian treaties or agreements with the United States, and to promote the common welfare of the American Indians and Alaska Natives.” The NCAI includes 250 member tribes from throughout the United States; they are listed on the organization’s website under “Tribal Directory.”

National Museum of the American Indian
Website: http://www.nmai.si.edu
The NMAI is a museum of the Smithsonian Institution and the “first national museum dedicated to the preservation, study, and exhibition” of American Indian culture. Its extensive collections (housed in three different facilities) explore the life, languages, literature, history, and arts of indigenous Americans, including tribes of the United States, Canada, Middle and South America, and the Caribbean.

NativeCulture.com
Website: http://www.nativeculture.com
This website offers a variety of links to American Indian resources—current events and news, tribal sites, education, games, and more. It also is home to “Native American Sites” by Lisa Mitten, a page recommended by the Discovery Channel for its thorough coverage of American Indian culture and resources.

NativeTech
Website: http://www.nativetech.org
NativeTech features American Indian technology and craft resources, with a special focus on Eastern Woodlands beadwork, weaving, stonework, pottery, and other crafts. The site also offers Native poetry, recipes, and educational games.

NativeWeb
Website: http://www.nativeweb.org
This nonprofit, international website provides resources to people of indigenous cultures around the world, including Native Americans. It includes links to everything from art to businesses and products and also hosts Wotanin Wowapi, North America’s oldest American Indian weekly newspaper.

Paul’s Supplies
Telephone: 303-948-2767
Website: http://www.paulssupplies.com

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