MERIT BADGE SERIES

LAW
LAW

“Enhancing our youths’ competitive edge through merit badges”
1. Define “law.” Tell some of its sources. Describe functions it serves.

2. Discuss TWO of the following:
   (a) Justinian’s Code, the Code of Hammurabi, and the Magna Carta
   (b) The development of the jury system
   (c) Two famous trials in history

3. Tell what civil law is; tell what criminal law is. Tell the main differences between them. Give examples of each.

4. Ask five people (not more than one from your immediate family) about the role of law enforcement officers in our society. Discuss their answers with them. Go to a law enforcement officer in your neighborhood and ask about his or her responsibilities and duties. Report your findings.

5. Tell about several laws that were passed to protect the consumer and the seller. Tell about several organizations that provide help to consumers and sellers.

6. Do ONE of the following:
   (a) Attend a session of a civil or criminal court. Write 250 words or more on what you saw.
   (b) Plan and conduct a mock trial with your troop or school class. After the trial is over, discuss it with the group.

7. Arrange a visit with a lawyer who works for a business, bank, title company, or government agency. Find out his or her duties and responsibilities. Report what you have learned.

8. Explain the requirements for becoming a lawyer in your state. Describe how judges are selected in your state.

9. Make a list of 15 jobs that deal with some aspects of law or legal processes. Tell which you prefer. Why?
10. Tell where people can go to obtain the help of a lawyer if they are unable to pay for one. Tell what you can do if you can afford a lawyer but do not know of any in your area.

11. Discuss with your counselor the importance in our society of TWO of the following areas of the law:
   (a) Environmental law
   (b) Computers and the internet
   (c) Copyright and the internet
   (d) Immigration
   (e) Patents
   (f) Biotechnology
   (g) Privacy law
   (h) International law
Resources About Law

Scouting Literature
Citizenship in the Nation, Citizenship in the World, and Crime Prevention merit badge pamphlets

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


**Organizations and Websites**

**American Bar Association**
Division for Public Education
321 N. Clark St., 20.2
Chicago, IL 60654
Website: http://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_education.html

**Creative Commons**
Website: http://www.creativecommons.org

**Environmental Protection Agency**
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20460
Website: http://www.epa.gov/lawsregs/index.html

**National Association of Youth Courts**
401 W. Pratt St.
Baltimore, MD 21201
Website: http://www.youthcourt.net

**National Conference of Bar Examiners**
302 S. Bedford St.
Madison, WI 53703-3622
Website: http://www.ncbex.org/bar-admissions/

**Social Studies School Service**
P.O. Box 802
Culver City, CA 90232
Toll-free telephone: 800-421-4246
Website: http://www.socialstudies.com

**Street Law**
1010 Wayne Ave., Suite 870
Silver Spring, MD 20910
Telephone: 301-589-1130
Website: http://www.streetlaw.org

Bar associations everywhere support public legal education. To get an idea of the range of activities and the resources available, visit the following websites.

The **New York State Bar Association** has a Law, Youth, and Citizenship program that offers mock trial tournaments, summer courses, and programs that promote citizenship and law-related education. Visit its website at http://www.nysba.org.