

# MERIT BADGE SERIES



# LAW



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

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*"Enhancing our youths' competitive edge through merit badges"*



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# Requirements

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 a 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. Space travel and satellites orbiting Earth
  - 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

Aaseng, Nathan. *You Are the Juror*. Oliver Press, 1997.

Abadinsky, Howard. *Law and Justice: An Introduction to the American Legal System*, 6th ed. Prentice Hall, 2007.

Abramson, Jeffrey. *We, the Jury: The Jury System and the Ideal of Democracy*. Harvard University Press, 2000.

Adler, Stephen J. *Jury: Trial and Error in the American Courtroom*. Crown Publishing, 1994.

American Bar Association Division for Public Education. *A Life in the Law*. American Bar Association, 2010. (A guide to law as a career. Order at [www.americanbar.org](http://www.americanbar.org); specify product code 2350257.)

Arbetman, Lee P., Margaret E. Fisher, and Edward L. O'Brien. *Street Law: A Course in Practical Law*, 8th ed. McGraw-Hill, 2009.

Arbetman, Lee P., and Richard L. Roe. *Great Trials in American History: Civil War to the Present*. McGraw-Hill, 1985.

Besenjak, Cheryl. *Copyright Plain & Simple*. Career Press, 2000.

Bjornlund, Lydia D. *The U.S. Constitution: Blueprint for Democracy*. Lucent Books, 1999.

Carrel, Annette. *It's the Law: A Young Person's Guide to Our Legal System*. Volcano Press, 1994.

Emert, Phyllis Raybin. *Top Lawyers and Their Famous Cases*. Oliver Press, 1996.

Irons, Peter. *The Courage of Their Convictions*. Free Press, 2015.

Knight, Alfred H. *The Life of the Law: The People and Cases That Have Shaped Our Society From King Alfred to Rodney King*. Oxford University Press, 1998.

Lee, Harper. *To Kill a Mockingbird*. HarperCollins, 1999.

Lipson, Eric B., and Greta B. Lipson. *Everyday Law for Young Citizens*. Teaching and Learning Company, 2000.

Monk, Linda R. *The Bill of Rights: A User's Guide*, 4th ed. Close Up Foundation, 2004.

Morin, Isobel V. *Our Changing Constitution: How and Why We Have Amended It*. Millbrook Press, 1998.

National Crime Prevention Council Staff. *Community Works: Smart Teens Make Safer Communities*. National Crime Prevention Council, 1999.

Renstrom, Peter G. *The American Law Dictionary*. A B C-CLIO, 1991.

Roleff, Tamara L., editor. *Civil Liberties: Opposing Viewpoints*. Greenhaven Press, 1999.

## 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](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>. The **Pennsylvania Bar Association**, at <http://www.pabar.org>, provides information for all kinds of youth-related programs and activities. The **State Bar of Texas** can be found on the web at <http://www.texasbar.com>. Its Law-Related Education, an arm of the association, sponsors an editorial contest and offers teacher in-service programs. The **Washington State Bar Association**, at <http://www.wsba.org>, offers a huge range of activities.