

# MERIT BADGE SERIES



# LEATHERWORK



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



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# Requirements

1. Do the following:
  - a. Explain to your counselor the hazards you are most likely to encounter while using leatherwork tools and materials, and what you should do to anticipate, help prevent, mitigate, or lessen these hazards.
  - b. Show that you know first aid for injuries or illnesses that could occur while working with leather, including minor cuts and scratches, puncture wounds, ingested poisoning, and reactions from exposure to chemicals such as dyes, cements, and finishes used in leatherworking.
2. Explain to your counselor
  - a. Where leather comes from
  - b. What kinds of hides are used to make leather
  - c. What are five types of leather
  - d. What are the best uses for each type of leather
3. Make one or more articles of leather that use at least five of the following steps:
  - a. Pattern layout and transfer
  - b. Cutting leather
  - c. Punching holes
  - d. Carving or stamping surface designs
  - e. Applying dye or stain and finish to the project
  - f. Assembly by lacing or stitching
  - g. Setting snaps and rivets
  - h. Dressing edges

4. Braid or plait an article out of leather, vinyl lace, or paracord.
5. Do ONE of the following:
  - a. Learn about the commercial tanning process. Report about it to your merit badge counselor.
  - b. Tan the skin of a small animal. Describe the safety precautions you will take and the tanning method that you used.
  - c. Recondition or show that you can take proper care of your shoes, a baseball glove, a saddle, furniture, or other articles of leather. Discuss with your counselor the advantages or disadvantages of leather vs. synthetic materials.
  - d. Visit a leather-related business. This could be a leathercraft supply company, a tannery, a leather goods or shoe factory, or a saddle shop. Report on your visit to your counselor.



# Leathercraft Resources

## Books

- Burnett, Paul. *Basic Leatherwork*. The Leather Factory, 1986.
- Grant, Bruce. *Encyclopedia of Rawhide and Leather Braiding*. Cornell Maritime Press, 1972.
- Letcavage, Elizabeth, ed. *Basic Leathercrafting: All the Skills and Tools You Need to Get Started*. Stackpole Books, 2011.
- Michael, Valerie. *The Leatherworking Handbook: A Practical Illustrated Source Book of Techniques and Projects*. Cassell PLC, 2006.
- Moody, Ben. *Just Tooling Around: Easy-to-Do Leather Stamping*. Hot Off the Press, Inc., 1994.
- Richards, Matt. *Deerskins into Buckskins: How to Tan with Natural Materials/ A Field Guide for Hunters and Gatherers*. Backcountry Publishing, 2nd ed., 2004.
- Stohman, Al. *The Art of Making Leather Cases, Volume I*. Tandy Leather Company, 1979.
- . *The Art of Making Leather Cases, Volume II*. Tandy Leather Company, 1983.
- . *The Art of Making Leather Cases, Volume III*. Tandy Leather Company, 1987.
- . *Coloring Leather*. Tandy Leather Co., 1985.
- . *How to Carve Leather*. Tandy Leather Co., 1952.
- . *Leathercraft Tools (How to Use Them, How to Sharpen Them)*. Tandy Leather Co., 1984.
- Tandy Leather Co. *Lacing and Stitching for Leathercraft*. 1997.
- Tandy Leather Co. *Leather Crafting*. 1998.

Visit the Boy Scouts of America's official retail website (with your parent's permission) at <http://www.scoutstuff.org> for a complete listing of all merit badge pamphlets and other helpful Scouting materials and supplies.

## **Organizations and Websites**

### **Paul's Supplies**

225 Seminole Drive  
Boulder, CO 80303  
Telephone: 303-948-2767  
Website:  
<http://www.paulssupplies.com>

### **Standing Bear's Trading Post**

7624 Tampa Ave.  
Reseda, CA 91335  
Telephone: 818-342-9120  
Website:  
<http://www.sbearstradingpost.com>

### **Tandy Leather Factory Inc.**

Attn: Sales  
1900 SE Loop 820  
Fort Worth, TX 76140  
Telephone: 877-532-8437

### **Zack White Leather Company**

809 Moffitt Street  
Ramseur, NJ 27316  
Telephone: 336-824-4488  
Website: <http://www.zackwhite.com>

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