

MERIT BADGE SERIES



THEATER



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

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"Enhancing our youths' competitive edge through merit badges"



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1. See or read three full-length plays.* Write a review of each. Discuss with your counselor the plot or story. If you chose to watch the plays, comment on the acting and the staging.
2. Write a one-act play that will take at least eight minutes to perform. The play must have a main character, conflict, and a climax.
3. Discuss with your counselor the safety precautions that should be practiced when working in a theater to protect the cast and crew. Then do THREE of the following:
 - (a) Act a major part in a full-length play; or, act a part in three one-act plays.
 - (b) Direct a play. Cast, rehearse, and stage it. The play must be at least 10 minutes long.
 - (c) Design the set for a play or a theatrical production. Make a model of it.
 - (d) Design the costumes for five characters in a theatrical production set in a historical time.
 - (e) Show skill in hair and makeup design. Make up yourself or a friend as a historical figure, a clown, an extraterrestrial, or a monster as directed.
 - (f) With your counselor's approval, help with the building and painting of the scenery for a theatrical production.
 - (g) With your counselor's approval, design the lighting for a play; or help install, focus, color, program, and operate the lighting for a theatrical production.
 - (h) With your counselor's approval, help install, focus, equalize, program, and operate the sound for a theatrical production.
 - (i) Serve as the stage manager for a theatrical production. Document all cues and stage setups in your calling script.

*Watching plays on television, video, or as a movie is not permitted.

4. Mime or pantomime any ONE of the following, chosen by your counselor.
- (a) You have come into a large room. It is full of pictures, furniture, and other things of interest.
 - (b) As you are getting on a bus, your books fall into a puddle. By the time you pick them up, the bus has driven off.
 - (c) You have failed a school test. You are talking with your teacher, who does not buy your story.
 - (d) You are at camp with a new Scout. You try to help him pass a cooking test. He learns very slowly.
 - (e) You are at a banquet. The meat is good. You don't like the vegetable. The dessert is ice cream.
 - (f) You are a circus performer such as a juggler, high-wire artist, or lion tamer doing a routine.
5. Explain the following: proscenium arch, central or arena staging, center stage, stage right, stage left, downstage, upstage, stage crew, flies, portal, cyclorama, stage brace, spotlight, floodlight, lighting control board, sound mixing desk.
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Theater Resources

Scouting Literature

Art, Cinematography, Communications, Journalism, Model Design and Building, Painting, and Reading 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

- Aitken, Maria. *Style: Acting in High Comedy*. Applause, 1996.
- Bloom, Michael. *Thinking Like a Director: A Practical Handbook*. Faber & Faber, 2001.
- Brown, John Russell, ed. *The Oxford Illustrated History of Theatre*. Oxford Press, 2001.
- Bruder, Melissa. *A Practical Handbook for the Actor*. Vintage Books, 1986.
- Campbell, Drew. *Technical Theater for Nontechnical People*. Allworth Press, 1999.
- Carter, Paul. *The Backstage Handbook: An Illustrated Almanac of Technical Information, 3rd ed.* Broadway Press, 1994.
- Catron, Louis E. *The Elements of Playwriting*. Waveland Press, 2001.
- Clurman, Harold. *On Directing*. Touchstone Books, 1997.
- Cohen, Edward M. *Working on a New Play*. Limelight Editions, 1995.
- Corson, Richard. *Stage Makeup, 9th ed.* Pearson Allyn & Bacon, 2000.
- Covey, Liz, and Rosemary Ingham. *The Costume Designer's Handbook, 2nd ed.* Heinemann, 1992.
- Fraser, Neil. *Stage Lighting Explained*. Crowood Press, 2002.
- Gillette, J. Michael. *Theatrical Design and Production: An Introduction to Scene Design and Construction, Lighting, Sound, Costume, and Makeup*. McGraw-Hill, 1999.
- Kipnis, Claude. *The Mime Book*. Meriwether Publishing, 1990.
- Korty, Carol. *Writing Your Own Plays: Creating, Adapting, Improvising*. Players Press, 2000.
- Novelly, Maria C. *Theatre Games for Young Performers: Improvisations and Exercises for Developing Acting Skills*. Meriwether Publishing, 1985.
- Pecktal, Lynn. *Designing and Drawing for the Theatre*. McGraw-Hill, 1994.

Pennington, Lee. *The Actor's Edge*.
Marble Falls Press, 1996.

Peterson, Lenka; Dan O'Connor, and
Robert Coles. *Kids Take the Stage:
Helping Young People Discover the
Creative Outlet of Theater*. Back
Stage Books, 1997.

Smith, Ronn, and Ming Cho Lee.
American Set Design Two. Theatre
Communications Group, 1991.

Swinfield, Rosemarie. *Stage
Makeup Step-By-Step*. Betterway
Publications, 1995.

Walters, Graham. *Stage Lighting
Step-by-Step: The Complete Guide
to Getting Dramatic Results*. Writer's
Digest Books, 1997.

Yager, Fred, and Jan Yager. *Career
Opportunities in the Film Industry*.
Facts on File, 2003.

Periodicals

Plays

P.O. Box 600160
Newton, MA 02460
Telephone: 617-630-9100
Toll-free telephone: 800-630-5755
Website:
<http://www.playsmagazine.com>

Organizations and Websites

American Association of Community Theatre

1300 Gendy St.
Fort Worth, TX 76107
Telephone: 866-687-2228
Website: <http://www.aact.org>

CreativeFuture

Website: <http://creativefuture.org>

Educational Theatre Association

2343 Auburn Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45219-2815
Telephone: 513-421-3900
Website: <http://www.edta.org>

Masterpiece Theatre

Website: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/masterpiece/about-masterpiece/>

Metropolitan Museum of Art

Costume Institute
1000 Fifth Ave. at 82nd Street
New York, NY 10028-0198
Telephone: 212-535-7710
Website: <http://www.metmuseum.org>

Museum of the City of New York

The Costume Collection
1220 Fifth Ave.
New York, NY 10029
Telephone: 212-534-1672
Website: <http://www.mcny.org/content/collections-descriptions>

TheatreHistory.com

Website: <http://www.theatrehistory.com>