MERIT BADGE SERIES
THEATER
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“Enhancing our youths’ competitive edge through merit badges”
Theater

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.
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


**Periodicals**

**Plays**

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

**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

**Organizations and Websites**

**American Association of Community Theatre**
1300 Gendy St.
Fort Worth, TX 76107
Telephone: 866-687-2228
Website: http://www.aact.org