

ARCHAEOLOGY MERIT BADGE WORKBOOK

This Scoutmaster Bucky Merit Badge Workbook is based off the current *Scouts BSA Requirements*.

Consider also using the Archaeology merit badge class preparation page for clarification and expectations when participating in a Scoutmaster Bucky merit badge opportunity ([online](#) or [in-person](#)).

<https://scoutmasterbucky.com/merit-badges/archaeology/>

Scout's
Name:

REQUIREMENT 1: Tell what archaeology is and explain to your counselor how it differs or relates to other fields of study such as anthropology, geology, paleontology, and history. Explain how archaeology is different than artifact collecting or treasure hunting.

What archaeology is

How it differs or relates to other fields of study

How archaeology is different than artifact collecting or treasure hunting

REQUIREMENT 2: Describe each of the following steps of the archaeological process: site location, development of background research and a research design, site survey and fieldwork, artifact identification and examination, interpretation, preservation, and information sharing.

Site location

Development of background research and a research design

Site survey and fieldwork

Artifact identification and examination

Interpretation

Preservation

Information sharing

REQUIREMENT 3: Describe at least two ways in which archaeologists determine the age of sites, structures, or artifacts. Explain what absolute dating and relative dating are.

One way in which archaeologists determine the age of sites, structures, or artifacts

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Another way in which archaeologists determine the age of sites, structures, or artifacts

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What absolute dating and relative dating are

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REQUIREMENT 4: Learn about a combined total of five archaeological sites located both within and outside the United States.

REQUIREMENT 4 A: For EACH site you research, point it out on a map and explain how it was discovered. Describe some of the information about the past that has been found at each site. Explain how the information gained from the study of these sites answers questions that archaeologists are asking and how the information may be important to modern people. Compare the relative ages of the sites you research.

First site

Location	Age of site

Some of the information about the past that has been found at this site

Second site

Location

Age of site

Some of the information about the past that has been found at this site

Third site

Location

Age of site

Some of the information about the past that has been found at this site

Fourth site

Location

Age of site

Some of the information about the past that has been found at this site

Fifth site

Location

Age of site

Some of the information about the past that has been found at this site

Summary topics

How the information gained from the study of these sites answers questions that archaeologists are asking

How the information may be important to modern people

REQUIREMENT 4 B: Choose ONE of the sites you picked and give a short presentation about your findings to a Cub Scout pack, your Scout troop, your school class, or another group.

Completed

REQUIREMENT 5: Do the following:

REQUIREMENT 5 A: Learn about the federal laws and international conventions that protect archaeological sites. Find out if your state, county, or local government has regulations that apply to archaeological or historic sites.

Federal laws

International conventions

State, county, or local government regulations

REQUIREMENT 5 B: Identify a national, international, or local organization that helps to protect archaeological sites.

REQUIREMENT 6: Do the following:

REQUIREMENT 6 A: Explain why it is important to protect archaeological sites.

REQUIREMENT 6 B: Explain what people should do if they think they have found an artifact.

REQUIREMENT 6 C: Describe the ways in which you can be a protector of the past.

REQUIREMENT 7: Do ONE of the following and discuss your findings with your counselor:

REQUIREMENT 7 A: Visit a museum to observe how artifacts aid in conveying history.

Completed

REQUIREMENT 7 B: Present to your counselor a significant family artifact/heirloom and discuss its history.

The history of the artifact/heirloom

REQUIREMENT 7 C: Make a list of the trash your family throws out during one week. Discuss with your counselor what archaeologists might learn about you and your family if they found your trash a thousand years from now.

REQUIREMENT 8: Research a group of people who lived in your area more than 100 years ago. Find out about their ways of life, including housing, clothing, arts and crafts, tools, trade and markets, rituals and religions, and diets, and their relationships with other groups of people in the area. Describe what you would expect to find at an archaeological site where these people lived. Explain how these people influenced your current community.

The group of people

Housing

Clothing

Arts

Crafts

Tools

Trade and markets

Rituals and religions

Diets

Relationships with other groups of people in the area

What you would expect to find at an archaeological site where these people lived

How these people influenced your current community

REQUIREMENT 9: Identify three career opportunities in archaeology. Pick one and explain how to prepare for such a career. Discuss with your counselor what education and training are required, and explain why this profession might interest you.

Three career opportunities in archaeology

How to prepare for one career

REQUIREMENT 10: Do either A or B of the following:

REQUIREMENT 10 A: With your parent's and counselor's permission, assist a qualified archaeologist for at least eight hours with a project being worked on. Projects may include surveying, site monitoring, site stabilization, excavation, laboratory analysis, use of digital archaeological technology, or public outreach. Describe your involvement in the project, what you learned about archaeology, and the steps of archaeological inquiry.

Note: Visiting an archaeological site will require advance planning. An archaeological site during study can be a dangerous place. While there, you will need to closely follow the archaeologist's directions and comply with all the safety procedures. Be aware of the changing conditions at the site.

Your involvement in the project

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What you learned about archaeology

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Steps of archaeological inquiry

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REQUIREMENT 10 B: With your counselor's approval, take part in a simulated archaeological project designed by a qualified archaeologist. The project must include the use of a simulated archaeological site including artifacts and features for the site. Using the steps of archaeological inquiry, analyze the "artifacts and features" and document the spatial relationships of the "artifacts and features" at the simulated site. Explain how the environment and time can affect the interpretation of an artifact and the overall archaeological site. Tell how you would share the results of your analysis with other researchers and the public. *Note: To find out how to make a simulated archaeological site, talk with a professional archaeologist, trained avocational archaeologist, museum school instructor, junior high or high school science teacher, advisor from a local archaeology society, or other qualified instructor.*

Spatial relationships of the "artifacts and features" at the simulated site

How the environment and time can affect the interpretation of an artifact

How the environment and time can affect the overall archaeological site

How you would share the results of your analysis with other researchers and the public

REQUIREMENT 11: Under the supervision of a qualified archaeologist or instructor, do ONE of the following:

REQUIREMENT 11 A: Help prepare an archaeological exhibit for display in a museum, visitor center, school, or other public area.

Completed

REQUIREMENT 11 B: Use the methods of experimental archaeology to re-create an item or to practice a skill from the past. Write a brief report explaining the experiment and its results.