



2024 Edition

# SCOUTMASTER BUCKY

## Journalism Merit Badge

SCOUTS PARTICIPATING IN A SCOUTMASTER BUCKY MERIT BADGE OPPORTUNITY (ONLINE OR IN PERSON), PLEASE CONSIDER ALSO USING THE JOURNALISM MERIT BADGE CLASS PREPARATION PAGE FOR CLARIFICATIONS, INSIGHTS, AND EXPECTATIONS.

<https://scoutmasterbucky.com/merit-badges/journalism/journalism-cpp.pdf>

### JOURNALISM MERIT BADGE WORKBOOK

**REQUIREMENT 1:** Explain what freedom of the press is

Notes:

**REQUIREMENT 1:** Explain how the First Amendment guarantees that you can voice your opinion.

Notes:

**REQUIREMENT 1:** Tell how to distinguish between fact and opinion.

Notes:



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**REQUIREMENT 1:** Explain the terms libel, slander, defamation, fair comment and criticism, public figure, privacy, and malice.

libel:

slander:

defamation:

fair comment and criticism:

public figure:

privacy:

malice:



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**REQUIREMENT 1:** Discuss how these matters (the terms and components of Requirement 1) relate to ethics in journalism.

Notes:

**DO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING (2A or 2B) FOR REQUIREMENT 2**

**REQUIREMENT 2a:** Newspaper, magazine, and online journalism (with your parent or guardian's permission).

Same News Story for all Sources:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's or Guardian's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's or Guardian's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

permission



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**REQUIREMENT 2a1:** On the same day, read a local news source or newspaper, a national news source or newspaper, a news magazine (online or printed), and a social media news feed. From each source, clip, read, and compare a story about the same event. Tell your counselor how long each story is and how fair and accurate the stories are in presenting different points of view. Tell how each source handled the story.

**Local News Source or Newspaper:**

**Local News Source or Newspaper Story's Length:**

**Local News Source / Newspaper Story's Fairness and Accuracy:**

**Local News Source / Newspaper - How the story was handled:**

**National News Source or Newspaper:**

**National News Source or Newspaper Story's Length:**

**National News Source / Newspaper Story's Fairness and Accuracy:**

**National News Source / Newspaper - How the story was handled:**



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Social Media News Source:

Social Media News Source Story's Length:

Social Media Story's Fairness and Accuracy:

Social Media - How the story was handled:

**REQUIREMENT 2a2** Visit the office of a newspaper, magazine, or internet news site. Ask for a tour of the various divisions (editorial, business, and printing). During your tour, talk to an executive from the business side about management's relations with reporters, editors, and photographers and what makes a "good" newspaper, magazine, or internet news site.

Selected place to visit:

Management's relations with staff:

What makes a "good" newspaper, magazine, or internet news site:



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**REQUIREMENT 2b:** Radio and television journalism (with your parent or guardian's permission).

Same News Story for all Sources:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's or Guardian's Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's or Guardian's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

permission

**REQUIREMENT 2b1:** All on the same day, watch a local and national network newscast, listen to a radio newscast, and view a national broadcast news source online.

Local Network Newscast:

National Network Newscast:

Radio Network Newscast:

National Broadcast News Source Online:

**REQUIREMENT 2b1:** List the different news items and features presented, the different elements used, and the time in minutes and seconds and the online space devoted to each story.

Local Network Newscast:



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**National Network Newscast:**

**Radio Network Newscast:**

**National Broadcast News Source Online:**



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**REQUIREMENT 2b1:** Compare the story lists and discuss whether the stories are fair and accurate.

Notes:

**REQUIREMENT 2b1:** Explain why different news outlets treated the stories differently and/or presented a different point of view.

Notes:





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**REQUIREMENT 2b2:** Visit a radio or television station. Ask for a tour of the various departments, concentrating on those related to news broadcasts. During your tour, talk to the station manager or other station management executive about station operations, particularly how management and the news staff work together, and what makes a “good” station. If possible, go with a reporter to cover a news event.

**Selected place to visit:**

**Station Operations:**

**How Management and News Staff work together:**

**What makes a “good” radio or television station:**

**Notes:**



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**REQUIREMENT 3:** Discuss the differences between a hard news story and a feature story.

Notes:

**REQUIREMENT 3:** Explain what is the “five W’s and H.”

Notes:



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**DO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING (3A, 3B, 3C, or 3D) FOR REQUIREMENT 3**

**REQUIREMENT 3a:** Choose a current or an unusual event of interest to you, and write either a hard news article OR a feature article about the event. Gear the article for print OR audio OR video journalism. Share your article with your counselor.

**REQUIREMENT 3b:** With your parent or guardian's permission and counselor's approval, interview someone in your community who is influential because of his or her leadership, talent, career, or life experiences. Then present to your counselor either a written or oral report telling what you learned about this person.

**REQUIREMENT 3c:** With your parent or guardian's permission and counselor's approval, read an autobiography written by a journalist you want to learn more about. Write an article that tells what you learned about this person and the contributions this person has made to the field of journalism.

**REQUIREMENT 3d:** Attend a Scouting event and write a 200-word article (feature or hard news) about the event. Use either the inverted pyramid style or the chronological style. Review the article with your counselor, then submit it to your community newspaper or BSA local council or district newsletter for consideration.

Notes:



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**REQUIREMENT 4:** Attend a public event and do ONE of the following:

**DO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING (4A, 4B, or 4C) FOR REQUIREMENT 4**

**REQUIREMENT 4a:** Attend a public event and write two articles about the event, one using the inverted pyramid style and one using the chronological style.

**REQUIREMENT 4b:** Attend a public event and using a radio, television, or podcasting style, write a news story, a feature story, and a critical review of the event.

**REQUIREMENT 4c:** Attend a public event and take a series of photographs to help tell the story of the event in pictures. Include news photos and feature photos in your presentation. Write a brief synopsis of the event as well as captions for your photos.

**Notes:**



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**REQUIREMENT 5:** Find out about three career opportunities in journalism. Pick one and find out the education, training, and experience required for this profession.

Career Opportunity #1:

Career Opportunity #2:

Career Opportunity #3:

**REQUIREMENT 5:** Pick one and find out the education, training, and experience required for this profession. Discuss this with your counselor.

Selected Career Opportunity:

Educational Requirements:

Training Requirements:

Experience Requirements:

**REQUIREMENT 5:** Explain why this profession might interest you.

Notes: