



PUBLIC HEALTH MERIT BADGE WORKBOOK

This Scoutmaster Bucky Merit Badge Workbook is based off the 2021 Scouts BSA Requirements.

Consider also using the Public Health 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/public-health/>

Scout's Name:

REQUIREMENT 1: Explain what public health is. Explain how Escherichia coli (E. coli), tetanus, AIDS, encephalitis, salmonellosis, Lyme disease, and coronavirus (COVID-19) are contracted. Then, pick any four of the following diseases and explain how each one is contracted and possibly prevented: gonorrhea, West Nile virus, botulism, influenza, syphilis, hepatitis, emphysema, meningitis, herpes, lead poisoning. For all 10 diseases, explain the type or form of the disease (viral, bacterial, environmental, toxin), any possible vectors for transmission, ways to help prevent exposure or the spread of infection, and available treatments.

Escherichia coli (E. coli)

Tetanus

AIDS

Encephalitis

Salmonellosis

Lyme disease



Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Choice 1:

Choice 2:

Choice 3:

Choice 4:

REQUIREMENT 1A: Explain what public health is. Explain how Escherichia coli (E. coli), tetanus, HIV/AIDS, malaria, salmonellosis, and Lyme disease are contracted.



REQUIREMENT 1B: Choose any FOUR of the following diseases or conditions, and explain how each one is contracted and possibly prevented: gonorrhea, West Nile virus, Zika, botulism, influenza, syphilis, hepatitis, emphysema, meningitis, herpes, lead poisoning.

REQUIREMENT 1C: For each disease or condition in requirement 1b, explain:

REQUIREMENT 1CI: The type or form of the malady (viral, bacterial, environmental, toxin)

REQUIREMENT 1CII: Any possible vectors for transmission



REQUIREMENT 1CIII: Ways to help prevent exposure or the spread of infection

REQUIREMENT 1CIV: Available treatments

REQUIREMENT 2: Do the following:

REQUIREMENT 2A: Explain the meaning of *immunization*.



REQUIREMENT 2B: Name eight diseases against which a young child should be immunized, two diseases against which everyone should be reimmunized periodically, and one immunization everyone should receive annually.

REQUIREMENT 2C: Using the list of diseases and conditions in requirement 1, discuss with your counselor those which currently have no immunization available.

REQUIREMENT 3: Discuss the importance of safe drinking water in terms of the spread of disease. Then, demonstrate two ways for making water safe to drink that can be used while at camp. In your demonstration, explain how dishes and utensils should be washed, dried, and kept sanitary at home and in camp.

REQUIREMENT 4: Explain what a vector is and how insects and rodents can be controlled in your home, in your community, and at camp. Tell why this is important. In your discussion, explain which vectors can be easily controlled by individuals and which ones require long-term, collective action.



REQUIREMENT 5: With your parent's and counselor's approval, do ONE of the following:

REQUIREMENT 5A: Visit a municipal wastewater treatment facility OR a solid-waste management operation in your community.

REQUIREMENT 5A1: Describe how the facility safely treats and disposes of sewage or solid waste.

REQUIREMENT 5A2: Discuss your visit and what you learned with your counselor.



REQUIREMENT 5A3: Describe how sewage and solid waste should be disposed of under wilderness camping conditions.

REQUIREMENT 5B: Visit a food service facility, such as a restaurant or school cafeteria.

REQUIREMENT 5B1: Observe food preparation, handling, and storage. Learn how the facility keeps food from becoming contaminated.

REQUIREMENT 5B2: Find out what conditions allow micro-organisms to multiply in food, what can be done to help prevent them from growing and spreading, and how to kill them.



REQUIREMENT 5B3: Discuss the importance of using a thermometer to check food temperatures.

REQUIREMENT 5B4: Discuss your visit and what you learned with your counselor.

REQUIREMENT 6: Do the following:

REQUIREMENT 6A: Describe the health dangers from air, water, and noise pollution.



REQUIREMENT 6B: Describe health dangers from tobacco use and alcohol and drug abuse.

REQUIREMENT 6C: Describe the health dangers from abusing illegal and prescription drugs.

REQUIREMENT 7: With your parent's and counselor's approval:

Do ONE of the following:

REQUIREMENT 7A: Visit your city, county, or state public health agency.



REQUIREMENT 7B: Familiarize yourself with your city, county, or state health agency's website.

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After completing either 7a or 7b, do the following:

REQUIREMENT 7BI: Compare the four leading causes of mortality (death) in your community for any of the past five years with the four leading causes of disease in your community. Explain how the public health agency you visited is trying to reduce the mortality and morbidity rates of these leading causes of illness and death.

Blank area for writing the response to Requirement 7BI.

REQUIREMENT 7BII: Explain the role of your health agency as it relates to the outbreak of diseases.

Blank area for writing the response to Requirement 7BII.

REQUIREMENT 7BIII: Discuss the kinds of public assistance the agency is able to provide in case of disasters such as floods, storms, tornadoes, earthquakes, and other acts of destruction. Your discussion can include the cleanup necessary after the disaster.

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REQUIREMENT 8: Pick a profession in the public health sector that interests you. Find out the education, training, and experience required to work in this profession. Discuss what you learn with your counselor.