

Promoting the Profession by using the Boy Scout Merit Badge Program

By Wayne Hebert

We have seen many programs in the past for promoting the Professions of the Land Surveyor and Engineer as a career opportunity to our youth. I would like to add to that genre of articles. Many of us have had children and are aware of the opportunities for involving youth in development of character and career choices. I would like to inform you of the Merit Badge program of the Boy Scouts of America. Specifically I would like to make you aware of the Surveying Merit Badge. There is a need for interested individuals and adults to serve as Merit Badge Counselors. Many of the Professional Land Surveyors in our state have served and a few still serve as Scoutmasters for their local Troops. This responsibility is quite burdensome and while a Scoutmaster (who is a Land Surveyor) may be able to apply his career expertise in the instruction of the Surveying Merit Badge, it would be beneficial to not add additional burdens to these individuals and to promote our profession, if each district and community would have an interested Professional Land Surveyor as a Merit Badge Counselor for his area to promote the Merit Badge and the career guidance of youth toward a truly interesting and unique profession.

To be a Counselor you may visit a Boy Scout Council Service Center or a local Boy Scout Troop. Ask to be registered as a Merit Badge Counselor for the Surveying Merit Badge. You will NOT have to pay a registration fee to serve as a Merit Badge Counselor, unless, you wish to join a troop or the Council as an adult leader. They will provide you with a BSA Adult Leader Application and a Merit Badge Counselor form. Simply complete the forms (with references) and your qualifications for the merit badges you wish to instruct. For youth protection purposes the BSA Adult Leader Application will be checked. You will have the options of instructing scouts from only the unit you are affiliated with or council wide. I suggest that Council Wide would not be overly burdensome. Additionally you may wish to see if your council has a "Merit Badge University". At this or a similar activity many merit badges are offered. Another opportunity may exist at an extended camping experience such as at Summer Camp. Most Councils run a weekly summer camp program, where scouts with their troops may enjoy Summer Camp and earn 4-6 merit badges during a week. This does require some dedication on the part of the MB Counselors. Depending on your council, you may be able to apprentice some youth Counselors in the instruction for the Surveying Merit Badge and "oversee" this one program for the Council

Trustworthy. Loyal. Helpful. Friendly. Courteous. Kind. Obedient. Cheerful. Thrifty. Brave. Clean. Reverent.

These are the twelve points of the Scout Law. They are great qualities for a professional or an employee as well. Below you will find the present requirements for the Surveying Merit Badge. There is a Merit Badge booklet that each scout and counselor should own. Advancement policies are that you require no less or no more than the written requirements for a scout to earn the merit badge. This does NOT preclude you from adding more instruction about the surveying profession and techniques.

And if you are looking for a way to promote a profession you have chosen as your career, you may have to look no further than the requirements set in many of the merit badge booklets for professions. The Surveying Merit Badge has the following requirement: "Discuss the importance of surveying with a licensed surveyor or another qualified individual. Also discuss the various types of surveying and mapping and applications of surveying technology to other fields. Discuss career opportunities in surveying and related fields. Discuss qualifications and preparation for such a career."

Some additional Internet resources you may wish to surf:

A Guide for Merit Badge Counseling	http://usscouts.org/boyscouts/MBCounseling.html
Merit Badge Counselor Orientation	http://www.usscouts.org/boyscouts/MBC_Training.html
Introduction to Merit Badges	http://usscouts.org/mb/intro.html
MB Counselor Form	http://usscouts.org/boyscouts/mbcounselorform.doc
SURVEYING MB REQUIREMENTS	http://usscouts.org/usscouts/mb/mb109.html

Surveying Merit Badge Requirements



1. Do ONE of the following:
 - a. From a set point (stake, nail, etc.), measure a range line north 300 feet and south 300 feet. From the same point, measure a base line east 300 feet and west 300 feet. From one or more points (stations) marked along the range and/or base line, take compass readings to trees, shrubs, and rocks. Take measurements from the range or base line to the located features. Make the measurements using instruments, methods, and accuracies consistent with the current technology, as directed by your counselor.
 - b. Find and mark the corners of a five-sided lot that has been laid out by your counselor to fit the land available. Set an instrument over each of the corners and record the angle turned between each line and the distance measured between each corner, as directed by your counselor. With the assistance of the counselor, compute the error of closure from the recorded notes. The error of closure must not be more than 5 feet. From the corners, take compass readings or turn angles to trees, shrubs, and rocks and measure to them. All measurements should be made using instruments, methods, and accuracies consistent with current technology, as directed by your counselor.
2. From the field notes gathered for requirement 1, draw to scale a map of your survey (as directed by your counselor). Submit a neatly drawn copy.
3. Use one of the corner markers from requirement 1 as a benchmark with an assumed elevation of 100 feet. Using a level and rod, determine the elevation of the other four corner markers.
4. Without first measuring the distance, determine the length between two points, then measure the length using a tape or instruments consistent with current technology. The answer you first determined must be within 5 percent of the length measured.
5. Determine the height of a point (tree limb or the like) that can be checked using a tape or level rod. Check the height using instruments and methods consistent with current technology, as directed by your counselor. Your original determination must be within 5 percent of the measured height.
6. Discuss the importance of surveying with a licensed surveyor or another qualified individual. Also discuss the various types of surveying and mapping, and applications of surveying technology to other fields. Discuss career opportunities in surveying and related fields. Discuss qualifications and preparation for such a career.

BSA Advancement ID#: 109

Pamphlet Revision Date: 1992

Source: *Boy Scout Requirements Y2K*, #33215D, revised 2001