



# WILDERNESS SURVIVAL

## Merit Badge Requirements

- 1) Show that you know first aid for injuries or illnesses likely to occur in backcountry outings, including hypothermia, hypothermia, heatstroke, heat exhaustion, frostbite, dehydration, sunburn, stings, tick bites, snakebite, and blisters.
- 2) Describe from memory the priorities for survival in a backcountry or wilderness location.
- 3) Describe ways to (a) avoid panic and (b) maintain a high level of morale when lost.
- 4) Tell what you would do to survive in the following environments:
  - A) Cold and Snowy
  - B) Wet (forest)
  - C) Hot and Dry (desert)
  - D) Windy (mountains or plains)
  - E) Water (ocean or lake)
- 5) Make up a personal survival kit and be able to explain how each item in it is useful.
- 6) Show that you can start fires using three methods other than matches.
- 7) Do the following:
  - A) Tell five different ways of attracting attention when lost.
  - B) Show how to use a signal mirror.
  - C) Describe from memory five international ground-to-air signals and tell what they mean.
- 8) Show that you can find and improvise a natural shelter minimizing the damage to the environment.
- 9) Spend a night in your shelter.
- 10) Explain how to protect yourself against insects, reptiles, and bears.
- 11) Show three ways to treat water found in the outdoors to prepare it for drinking.
- 12) Show that you know the proper clothing to be worn in your area on an overnight in extremely hot weather and extremely cold weather.
- 13) Explain why it usually is not wise to eat edible wild plants or wildlife in a wilderness survival situation.

**Requirement 1**

Show that you know first aid for injuries or illnesses likely to occur in backcountry outings. Include the following:

Hypothermia: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Hyperthermia: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Heatstroke: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Heat Exhaustion: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Frostbite: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Dehydration: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Sunburn: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Insect Stings: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Tick Bites: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Snake Bites: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Blisters: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Requirement 2**

Scout Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit #: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

From memory, you will have to describe the priorities for survival in a backcountry or wilderness location to your counselor. Use this space to write these items down, take notes, and memorize the priorities. They can be found in the merit badge book.

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\_\_ Demonstrate to your counselor that you have memorized these priorities.

**Requirement 3**

What are some ways to avoid *panic* when lost? \_\_\_\_\_

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What are some ways to maintain a high level of morale when you are lost? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Requirement 4**

Scout Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit #: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Tell what you would do to survive in the following environments:

Cold & Snowy: \_\_\_\_\_

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Wet (Forest): \_\_\_\_\_

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Hot & Dry (Desert): \_\_\_\_\_

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Windy (Mountains or Plains): \_\_\_\_\_

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Water (Ocean or Lake): \_\_\_\_\_

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### Requirement 5

Make up a personal survival kit. Be able to explain how *each* item in it is useful. List some of the items below with a description of its usefulness.

Item: \_\_\_\_\_ Use: \_\_\_\_\_

Item: \_\_\_\_\_ Use: \_\_\_\_\_

Item: \_\_\_\_\_ Use: \_\_\_\_\_

Item: \_\_\_\_\_ Use: \_\_\_\_\_

Item: \_\_\_\_\_ Use: \_\_\_\_\_

Item: \_\_\_\_\_ Use: \_\_\_\_\_

Item: \_\_\_\_\_ Use: \_\_\_\_\_

Item: \_\_\_\_\_ Use: \_\_\_\_\_

Item: \_\_\_\_\_ Use: \_\_\_\_\_

Item: \_\_\_\_\_ Use: \_\_\_\_\_

### Requirement 6

Scout Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit #: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Show that you can start fires using three methods other than matches. Describe these methods below:

Method 1: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Method 2: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Method 3: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Requirement 7

Tell five different ways of attracting attention when lost:

1) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Show your merit badge counselor how to use a signal mirror. Give a brief summary of the process: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

From memory, you need to describe 5 international ground-to-air signals and tell what they mean. To help you learn, use this area to draw them and list the meaning.

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### Requirement 8

Show that you can find and improvise a natural shelter minimizing the damage to the environment. If possible, do this while on a campout with your troop, or this can be done in a back yard.

Give a brief summary of how you did this: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_ Show this shelter to your leader or your merit badge counselor and explain how and why you built it the way you did. \_\_\_\_\_  
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### Requirement 9

Spend a night in your shelter. Briefly explain the weather conditions and your experience in your shelter. \_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Requirement 10

How would you protect yourself from:

Scout Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit #: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Insects: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Reptiles: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Bears: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Requirement 11

List 3 effective ways that you can treat water found in the outdoors to prepare it for drinking. Demonstrate them to your counselor.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Requirement 12

List the *proper* clothing you would take and wear during an overnight campout in your area. List clothing for both conditions

Extremely Hot Weather

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Extremely Cold Weather

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### Requirement 13

Explain why it usually is not wise to eat edible wild plants or wildlife in a wilderness survival situation: \_\_\_\_\_

