



Communication merit badge requirements

1. Do ONE of the following:

a. For one day, keep a log in which you describe your communication activities. Keep track of the time and different ways you spend communicating, such as talking person-to-person, listening to teachers, the radio, or podcasts, watching television, reading books and other print media, and using any electronic communication device. Discuss with your counselor what your log reveals about the importance of communication in your life. Think of ways to improve your communication skills.

b. For three days, keep a journal of your listening experiences. Identify one example of each of the following, and discuss with your counselor when you have listened to:

1. Obtain information

2. A persuasive argument

3. Appreciate or enjoy something

4. Understand someone's feelings

c. In a small-group setting, meet with other scouts or with friends. Have them share personal stories about significant events in their lives that affected them in some way. Take note of how each scout participates in the group discussion and how effectively he communicates his story. Report what you have learned to your counselor about the differences you observed in effective communication.

d. List as many ways as you can think of to communicate with others (face-to-face, by telephone, letter, e-mail, text messages, and so on). For each type of communication discuss with your counselor an instance when that method might not be appropriate or effective.

Do one of the following:

1a. Use a scribe or buddy to help track your activities. Suggestions: Keep the log on weekends so parents can help with log entries.

1a. Discuss with counselor log results. Use picture choices to communicate safety, needs, wants and enjoyment.

Ways to improve communication skills: Speak more slowly, Practice with buddy or friend.

1b. For 3 days...for your listening experiences journal suggestions would be doing it during school day for more contact with communication opportunities. Examples for opportunities might be music, computer, teacher, television, etc. Non-verbal scouts may need a buddy to help them complete the journal.

1b. (1) Obtain information from a teacher.

1b. (2) Be persuaded- May use an ad or a commercial.

1b. (3) Appreciate or enjoy something like a movie, game or video.

1b. (4) Understand someone's feelings like a family member or a trusted friend.

1c. A scribe could be used to complete this requirement. This could also be completed in a small group. If the scout is non-verbal they could point to the person in the group using effective communication skills.

1d. Use pictures of examples of ways to communicate other use a matching page to draw lines between ways and instances. Examples: You could not talk face to face with someone in another state. You would not write a letter to someone in the same room.

2. Do ONE of the following:

a. Think of a creative way to describe yourself, using, for example, a collage, short story or autobiography, drawing or series of photographs, or a **song** or **skit**. Using the aid you created, make a presentation to your counselor about yourself.

b. Choose a concept, product, or service in which you have great confidence. Build a sales plan based on its good points. Try to persuade the counselor to agree with, use, or buy your concept, product or service. After your sales talk, discuss with your counselor how persuasive you were.

2a. No modifications should be needed.

2b. If someone has a communication challenge then 2a would be a more realistic option. .

3. Write a five-minute speech. Give it at a meeting of a group.

3. One options may be to Pre-record in a comfortable setting the speech and play it in a meeting or group. Another option, would be for a scribe to write it on signs that the scout would hold up and the others in the group could read it for themselves.

4. Interview someone you know fairly well, like, or respect because of his or her position, talent, career or life experiences. Listen actively to learn as much as you can about the person. Then prepare and deliver to your counselor an introduction of the person as though this person were to be a guest speaker, and include reasons

why the audience would want to hear this person speak. Show how you would call to invite this person to speak.

4. You could use a scribe and they could write out the questions rather than the scout speaking them. Scribe would record the scout's answers. The invite could also be written out.

5. Attend a public meeting (city council, school board, debate) approved by your counselor where several points of view are given on a single issue. Practice active listening skills and take careful notes of each point of view. Prepare an objective report that includes all points of view that were expressed, and share this with your counselor.

5. Use a computer or tablet to type key notes during the meeting and share that with your counselor.

6. With your counselor's approval, develop a plan to teach a skill or inform someone about something. Prepare teaching aids for your plan. Carry out your plan. With your counselor, determine whether the person has learned what you intended.

6. Options may be to cut out pictures, make a poster or use the internet to help develop your plan. Ideas may be to teach a knot, first aid element, how to make an airplane or how to make a peanut butter sandwich.

7. Do ONE of the following:

a. Write to the editor of a magazine or your local newspaper to express your opinion or share information on any subject you choose. Send your message by fax, email or regular mail.

b. Create a web page or blog of special interest to you (for instance, your troop or crew, a hobby, or a sport).. Include at least three articles or entries and one photograph or illustration, and one link to some other Web page or blog that would be helpful to someone who visits the Web page or blog you have created. It is not necessary to post your Web page or blog to the Internet, but if you decide to do so, you must first share it with your parents and counselor and get their permission.

c. Use desktop publishing to produce a newsletter, brochure, flier or other printed material for your scout troop, class at school, or other group. Include at least one article and one photograph or illustration.

7a-c. All require the use of computers so if necessary someone can type for you. They have to point to get their point across.

8. Plan a troop or crew court of honor, campfire program, or an interfaith worship service. Have the patrol leaders' council approve it, then write the script and prepare the program. Serve as master of ceremonies.

8. Plan using people that the scout is comfortable with, use a scribe for the plan. As MC, point to the person who is up next rather than introduce them.

9. Find out about three career opportunities in the field of communication. Pick one and find out the education, training, and experience required for this profession. Discuss this with your counselor, and explain why this profession might interest you.

9. You could use a scribe to list the careers. Use a computer to print pictures. Do online research to find out about the chosen career. Type out the information or use a scribe to write down the information the scout has researched.