



AMERICAN HERITAGE

Merit Badge Requirements

1) Do ONE of the following:

- A)** Make a map of your area. Mark the points of historical interest. Show your map in your classroom or troop meeting place. Tell about the points of historical interest.
- B)** Research an event of historical importance that took place in or near your area. If possible, visit the place where the event took place. Tell your class or troop about the event and its impact on local history. Describe what it looked like then and now.
- C)** Find out when, why, and how your town or neighborhood started. What ethnic, national, or racial groups played a part? Find out how it has changed over the past 50 years. Try to explain why.

2) Do ONE of the following:

- A)** Explain what is meant by the national Register of Historic Places. Tell about any National Register properties in your area. Describe how a property becomes eligible for listing.
- B)** Find something in your area that seems to qualify for National Register listing. Bring it to the attention of the Historic Preservation Officer for your state. Assist him or her, in any way possible, to nominate it for inclusion in the National Register.

3) Choose ONE of the following; describe its adoption; tell about any changes since its adoption.

- A)** The Flag **B)** The Pledge of Allegiance **C)** The Seal **D)** The Motto **E)** The National Anthem

4) Choose an event, a period, or a person from United States history that you would like to know more about. Do FOUR of the following for the subject chosen:

- A)** Read a biography, approved by your counselor, of the person chosen. Tell some things you admire about the person. Tell some things you do not admire. Explain why you think this person had made a good or bad contribution to America's heritage.
- B)** Read about the subject in three sources. List the major points upon which all agree. List areas of disagreement. Decide which source is mostly true. Tell how you decided.
- C)** Read a historical novel or see a television show, a play, or a movie about your subject. Tell how true you think it was. Tell you it added to your understanding of the subject.
- D)** Select an important speech related to your subject and tell when and why it was made. Read the speech to your class or troop. Then lead a discussion about the effect it had at the time.
- E)** Gather records of four songs that are related to your subject or be able to sing or play them yourself. Play the records, or play or sing the songs yourself, for your class or troop. Tell about each song.
- F)** Collect copies of four cartoons about your subject or draw two in the style of the period. Tell about the meaning of the cartoon.
- G)** Collect copies of paintings about your subject. Show them to your class or troop. Tell about them. Discuss their accuracy or symbolism.
- H)** Collect copies of photographs about your subject. Show them to your class or troop. Tell how they reflect the photographer's point of view.
- I)** Build a model to show something about your subject. Show the model to your class or troop. Tell about what it shows.
- J)** Visit a historic site related to your subject. Tell your class or troop about the visit. Tell how it has enlarged your view of the subject.
- K)** Make a time-line for your subject. Tell how the main events on your chart have affected life in America today.

5) Do ONE of the following:

- A)** Take an active part in a program about a historic event or person. Report to your class or troop about the program, the part you took, and the subject.
- B)** Pick an organization that is directly concerned with the preservation or perpetuation of local, state, or national history. Talk with an officer of the organization about its goals. Find out how you can help meet these goals. Carry out a project that will help meet the goals.
- C)** Set up a historic trail or walk in your area. Prepare a guidebook. Include maps and related local history. Develop and carry out a plan to bring your trail to the attention of your community.

Requirement 1

You have been given three options for this requirement. Select and complete one of them.

If you selected *Option A*:

Use the area below to make a map of your area. List the points of historical interest and indicate them on your map. Tell about the points of historical interest. If you do not use the space below for your map, attach your map to this worksheet. Show your map to your class or troop.



Points of Historical Interest:

1: _____ Description/Significance: _____

2: _____ Description/Significance: _____

3: _____ Description/Significance: _____

4: _____ Description/Significance: _____

5: _____ Description/Significance: _____

Requirement 2

You have been given two options for this requirement. Select and complete one of them.

If you selected *Option A*:

Explain what is meant by the National Register of Historic Places: _____

Tell about any National Register properties in your area: _____

Describe how a property becomes eligible for listing: _____

If you selected *Option B*:

Find something in your area that seems to qualify for National Register listing. What did you find? _____

Bring it to the attention of the Historic Preservation Officer for your state. Officers name: _____

Assist him or her, in any way possible, to nominate it for inclusion in the National Register. Give a brief summary of your experience:

Requirement 3

Select one of the following for this requirement. Circle it.

The flag The Pledge of Allegiance The Seal The Motto The National Anthem

Tell about the adoption: _____

Tell about any changes since its adoption: _____

Requirement 4

Choose an event, a period, or a person from United States history that you would like to know more about.

What did you select as your topic? _____

You have been given eleven different options for the next part of this requirement. Select and complete four of them.

If you selected *Option A*:

Read a biography, approved by your counselor, of the person chosen.

What are some things you admire about the person? _____

What are some things you do not admire about the person? _____

Why do you think this person had made a good or bad contribution to America's heritage? _____

If you selected *Option B*:

Read about the subject in three sources.

What are some of the major points upon which all three sources agree? _____

List areas of disagreement: _____

Which source do you believe is mostly true? _____

Why? _____

If you selected *Option C*:

Read a historical novel or see a television show, a play, or a movie about your subject.

How true do you think it was? _____

How did it add to your understanding of the subject? _____

If you selected **Option D**:

Select an important speech related to your subject.

Name of speech: _____ Date Given: _____

Why was the speech given? _____

_____ Read the speech to your class or troop.

Lead a discussion about the effect it had at the time. What did you discuss? _____

If you selected **Option E**:

Gather records of four songs that are related to your subject or be able to sing or play them yourself.

After playing or singing them for your class or troop, tell about each song:

Song Name: _____

Background: _____

Song Name: _____

Background: _____

Song Name: _____

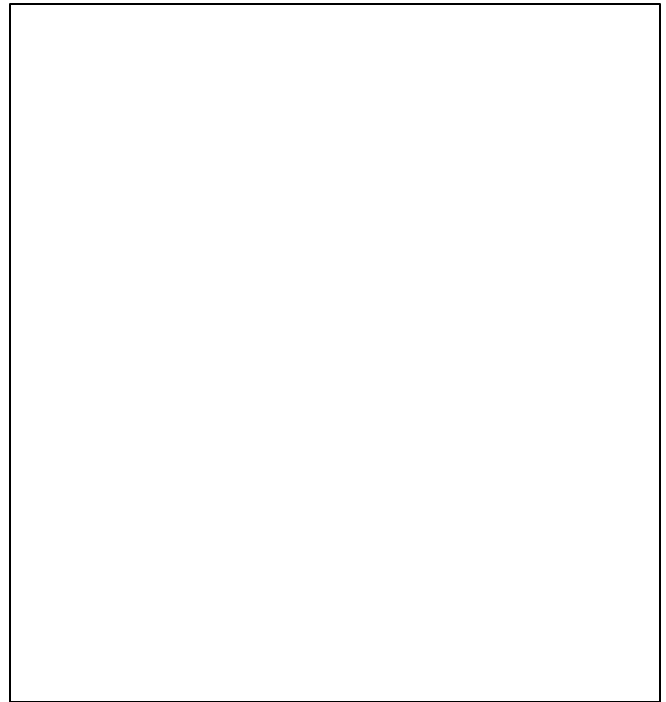
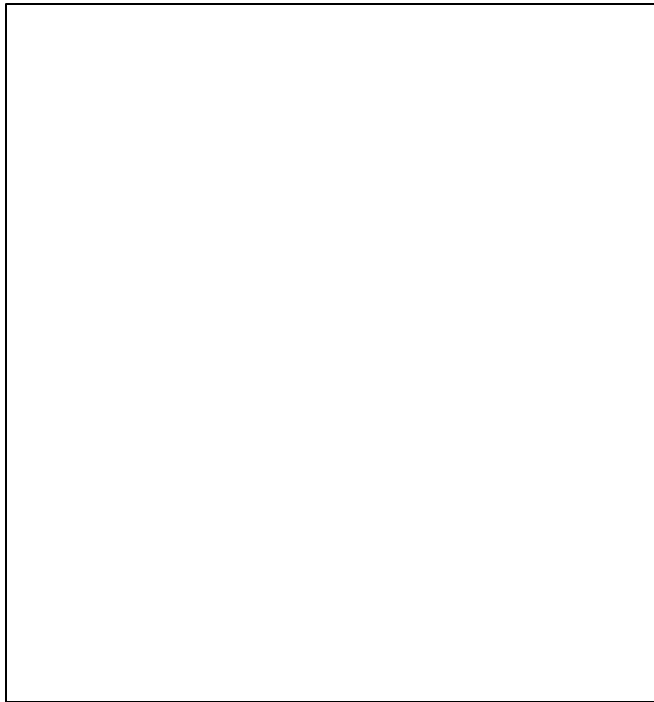
Background: _____

Song Name: _____

Background: _____

If you selected **Option F**:

Collect copies of four cartoons about your subject and attach them to this worksheet. Or use the area below to draw two cartoons in the style of the period. In the area provided below tell the meaning of the four collected or two drawn cartoons.



Meaning: _____

Meaning: _____

Meaning: _____

Meaning: _____

If you selected **Option G**:

Collect copies of paintings about your subject. Show them to your class or troop.

Describe the paintings you found and showed: _____

Tell about their accuracy or symbolism: _____

If you selected *Option K*:

Using the line below (or use one of your own) make a time-line for your subject.

How have the main events on your chart affected life in America today? _____

Requirement 5

You have been given three options for this requirement. Select and complete one of them.

If you selected *Option A*:

Take an active part in a program about a historic event or person. Report your activity to your class or troop.

Describe the program: _____

What part did you take? _____

What was the subject? _____

Give a brief report or summary of the total event or program: _____

If you selected **Option B**:

Pick an organization that is directly concerned with the preservation or perpetuation of local, state, or national history.

Which organization did you select? _____

After speaking with an officer of the organization, tell about the goals of the organization: _____

How can you help meet these goals? _____

Carry out a project that will help meet the goals of the organization. Describe the project: _____

If you selected **Option C**:

Set up a historic trail or walk in your area. Describe the route and the historical value: _____

Prepare a guidebook that includes maps and related local history. Attach a copy of the guidebook to this worksheet and show it to your counselor. Describe the map(s) you included in your guidebook and also describe the local history you included: _____

Develop and carry out a plan to bring your trail to the attention of your community. Describe your plan: _____

*Not Required for badge

Introduce your trail or walk to your class, troop, or community by taking them on a guided tour of your trail with you as the guide. Provide a guidebook for each person. Invite your community, school, and religious leaders to participate.