



Journalism Merit Badge Workbook

SCOUTMASTER BUCKY

Scouts participating in a Scoutmaster Bucky merit badge opportunity, whether online or in person, should consider using the Journalism merit badge pamphlet for discovery and knowledge, along with the class preparation pages for clarifications, insights, and expectations.

<https://scoutmasterbucky.com/merit-badges/journalism/journalism-pamphlet.pdf>

<https://scoutmasterbucky.com/merit-badges/journalism/journalism-cpp.pdf>

REQUIREMENTS 3b and 3c REQUIRE COUNSELOR APPROVAL.

REQUIREMENTS 2a1, 2b1, 3b and 3c REQUIRE PARENT / GUARDIAN APPROVAL.

REQUIREMENT 1: Explain what freedom of the press is.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 1: Explain how the First Amendment guarantees that you can voice your opinion.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 1: Tell how to distinguish between fact and opinion as it relates to journalism.

Notes:



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REQUIREMENT 1: Explain the terms *libel*, *slander*, *defamation*, *fair comment and criticism*, *public figure*, *privacy*, and *malice*.

libel:

slander:

defamation:

fair comment and criticism:

public figure:

privacy:

malice:



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REQUIREMENT 1: Discuss how these matters relate to ethics in journalism.

Notes:

DO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING (2A or 2B) FOR REQUIREMENT 2

REQUIREMENT 2a: Newspaper, magazine, and online journalism (with your parent or guardian's permission).

REQUIREMENT 2a1: On the same day, read a local news source or newspaper, a national news source or newspaper, a news magazine (online or printed) and a social media news feed.

Same Day News Story for All Sources:

PARENT/GUARDIAN PERMISSION: IS REQUIRED.

Parent's / Guardian's Name

Phone or Email

Parent's / Guardian's Signature

Date

☐

permission



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REQUIREMENT 2a1: From each source, clip, read, and compare a story about the same event. Tell your counselor how long each story is and how fair and accurate the stories are in presenting different points of view. Tell how each source handled the story.

LOCAL NEWS SOURCE OR NEWSPAPER (TO BE READ):

Don't forget to "clip" (this would mean to print out or make a copy of) for each source as the requirement states.
Make sure you bring the clip ready to share when you meet with the merit badge counselor.

Name:

Story's Length:

Story's Fairness and Accuracy presenting Different Points of View:

How this Story was Handled:

NATIONAL NEWS SOURCE OR NEWSPAPER (TO BE READ):

Don't forget to "clip" (this would mean to print out or make a copy of) for each source as the requirement states.
Make sure you bring the clip ready to share when you meet with the merit badge counselor.

Name:

Story's Length:

Story's Fairness and Accuracy presenting Different Points of View:

How this Story was Handled:



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SOCIAL MEDIA NEWS SOURCE OR NEWSPAPER (TO BE READ):

Don't forget to "clip" (this would mean to print out or make a copy of) for each source as the requirement states.
Make sure you bring the clip ready to share when you meet with the merit badge counselor.

Name:

Story's Length:

Story's Fairness and Accuracy presenting Different Points of View:

How this Story was Handled:

REQUIREMENT 2a2: Visit the office of a newspaper, magazine, or internet news site. Ask for a tour of the various divisions (editorial, business, and printing). During your tour, talk to an executive from the business side about management's relations with reporters, editors, and photographers and what makes a "good" newspaper, magazine, or internet news site.

Selected Place to Visit:

Person you Spoke with and Title:

Management's Relations with Staff:



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What makes a “good” newspaper, magazine, or internet news site?



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REQUIREMENT 2b1: **Radio and television journalism:** All on the same day, watch a local and national network newscast, listen to a radio newscast, and (with your parent or guardian's permission) view a national broadcast news source online.

PARENT/GUARDIAN PERMISSION: IS REQUIRED.

Parent's / Guardian's Name

Phone or Email

Parent's / Guardian's Signature

Date ☐ permission

REQUIREMENT 2b1: List the different news items and features presented, the different elements used, and the time in minutes and seconds and the online space devoted to each story.

LOCAL NETWORK NEWSCAST:

Name:

News Item / Feature	Time (mm:ss)	Element(s)	Devoted Space
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			



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NATIONAL NETWORK NEWSCAST:

Name:

News Item / Feature	Time (mm:ss)	Element(s)	Devoted Space
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			

Notes:



RADIO NEWSCAST:

Name:

News Item / Feature	Time (mm:ss)	Element(s)	Devoted Space
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			

Notes:



NATIONAL BROADCAST NEWS SOURCE ONLINE:

Name:

News Item / Feature	Time (mm:ss)	Element(s)	Devoted Space
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			

Notes:



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REQUIREMENT 2b1: Compare the story lists and discuss whether the stories are fair and accurate.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 2b1: Explain why different news outlets treated the stories differently and/or presented a different point of view.

Notes:



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REQUIREMENT 2b2: Visit a radio or television station. Ask for a tour of the various departments, concentrating on those related to news broadcasts. During your tour, talk to the station manager or other station management executive about station operations, particularly how management and the news staff work together, and what makes a "good" station.

Selected Place to Visit:

Person you Spoke with and Title:

Management's Relations with Staff:

What makes a "good" station?

Notes:



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REQUIREMENT 2b2: If possible, go with a reporter to cover a news event.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 3: Discuss the differences between a hard news story and a feature story.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 3: Explain what is the "five W's and H."

Notes:



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DO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING (3A, 3B, 3C, or 3D) FOR REQUIREMENT 3

REQUIREMENT 3a: Choose a current or an unusual event of interest to you, and write either a hard news article OR a feature article about the event. Gear the article for print OR audio OR video journalism. Share your article with your counselor.

REQUIREMENT 3b: With your parent or guardian's permission and counselor's approval, interview someone in your community who is influential because of his or her leadership, talent, career, or life experiences. Then present to your counselor either a written or oral report telling what you learned about this person.

REQUIREMENT 3c: With your parent or guardian's permission and counselor's approval, read an autobiography written by a journalist you want to learn more about. Write an article that tells what you learned about this person and the contributions this person has made to the field of journalism.

REQUIREMENT 3d: Attend a Scouting event and write a 200-word article (feature or hard news) about the event. Use either the inverted pyramid style or the chronological style. Review the article with your counselor, then submit it to your community newspaper or Scouting America local council or district newsletter for consideration.

PARENT/GUARDIAN PERMISSION: IS REQUIRED.

Parent's / Guardian's Name

Phone or Email

Parent's / Guardian's Signature

Date ☐ *permission for 3b*
☐ *permission for 3c*

COUNSELOR APPROVAL: IS REQUIRED.

Counselor's Name

Phone or Email

Counselor's Signature

Date ☐ *approval for 3b*
☐ *approval for 3c*

Consider using the [Journalism Merit Badge Pamphlet](#) for preparation information

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.

BE PREPARED!



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REQUIREMENT 4: Attend a public event and do ONE of the following:

Public Event:

Date and Location of Public Event:

DO ONE OF THE FOLLOWING (4A, 4B, or 4C) FOR REQUIREMENT 4

REQUIREMENT 4a: Write two articles about the event, one using the inverted pyramid style and one using the chronological style.

REQUIREMENT 4b: Using a radio, television, or podcasting style, write a news story, a feature story, and a critical review of the event.

REQUIREMENT 4c: Take a series of photographs to help tell the story of the event in pictures. Include news photos and feature photos in your presentation. Write a brief synopsis of the event as well as captions for your photos.

Consider using the [Journalism Merit Badge Pamphlet](#) for preparation information

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.

BE PREPARED!

Notes:



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REQUIREMENT 5: Find out about three career opportunities in journalism.

Career Opportunity #1:

Career Opportunity #2:

Career Opportunity #3:

REQUIREMENT 5: Pick one and find out the education, training, and experience required for this profession. Discuss this with your counselor.

Selected Career Opportunity:

Education Requirements:

Training Requirements:

Experience Requirements:

REQUIREMENT 5: Explain why this profession might interest you.

Notes: