



Signs, Signals, and Codes Merit Badge Workbook

SCOUTMASTER BUCKY

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

<https://scoutmasterbucky.com/merit-badges/signs-signals-and-codes/signs-signals-and-codes-pamphlet.pdf>

<https://scoutmasterbucky.com/merit-badges/signs-signals-and-codes/signs-signals-and-codes-cpp.pdf>

REQUIREMENT 1: Discuss with your counselor the importance of signs, signals, and codes.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 1: Discuss with your counselor why people need these different methods of communication.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 1: Briefly discuss the history and development of signs, signals, and codes.

Notes:



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REQUIREMENT 2: Explain the importance of signaling in emergency communications.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 2: Discuss with your counselor the types of emergency or distress signals one might use to attract airborne search-and-rescue personnel if lost in the outdoors or trying to summon assistance during a disaster.

Notes:



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REQUIREMENT 2: Illustrate these signaling examples by the use of photos or drawings.

Notes:



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A ● —

B — ● ● ●

C — ● — ●

D — ● ●

E ●

F ● ● — ●

G — — ●

H ● ● ● ●

I ● ●

J ● — — —

K — ● —

L ● — ● ●

M — —

N — ●

O — — —

P ● — — ●

Q — — ● —

R ● — ●

S ● ● ●

T —

U ● ● —

V ● ● ● —

W ● — —

X — ● ● —

Y — ● — —

Z — — ● ●

REQUIREMENT 3a: Describe what Morse code is.

Notes:



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REQUIREMENT 3a: Describe the various means by which Morse code can be sent.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 3a: Spell your first name using Morse code.

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.
BE PREPARED!

Name:

REQUIREMENT 3a: Send or receive a message of six to 10 words using Morse code.

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.
BE PREPARED!

Message:



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A B C D E F G H I J K L M



N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

REQUIREMENT 3b: Describe what American Sign Language (ASL) is.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 3b: Describe how American Sign Language (ASL) is used today.

Notes:



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REQUIREMENT 3b: Spell your first name using American Sign Language.

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.
BE PREPARED!

Name:

REQUIREMENT 3b: Send or receive a message of six to 10 words using ASL.

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.
BE PREPARED!

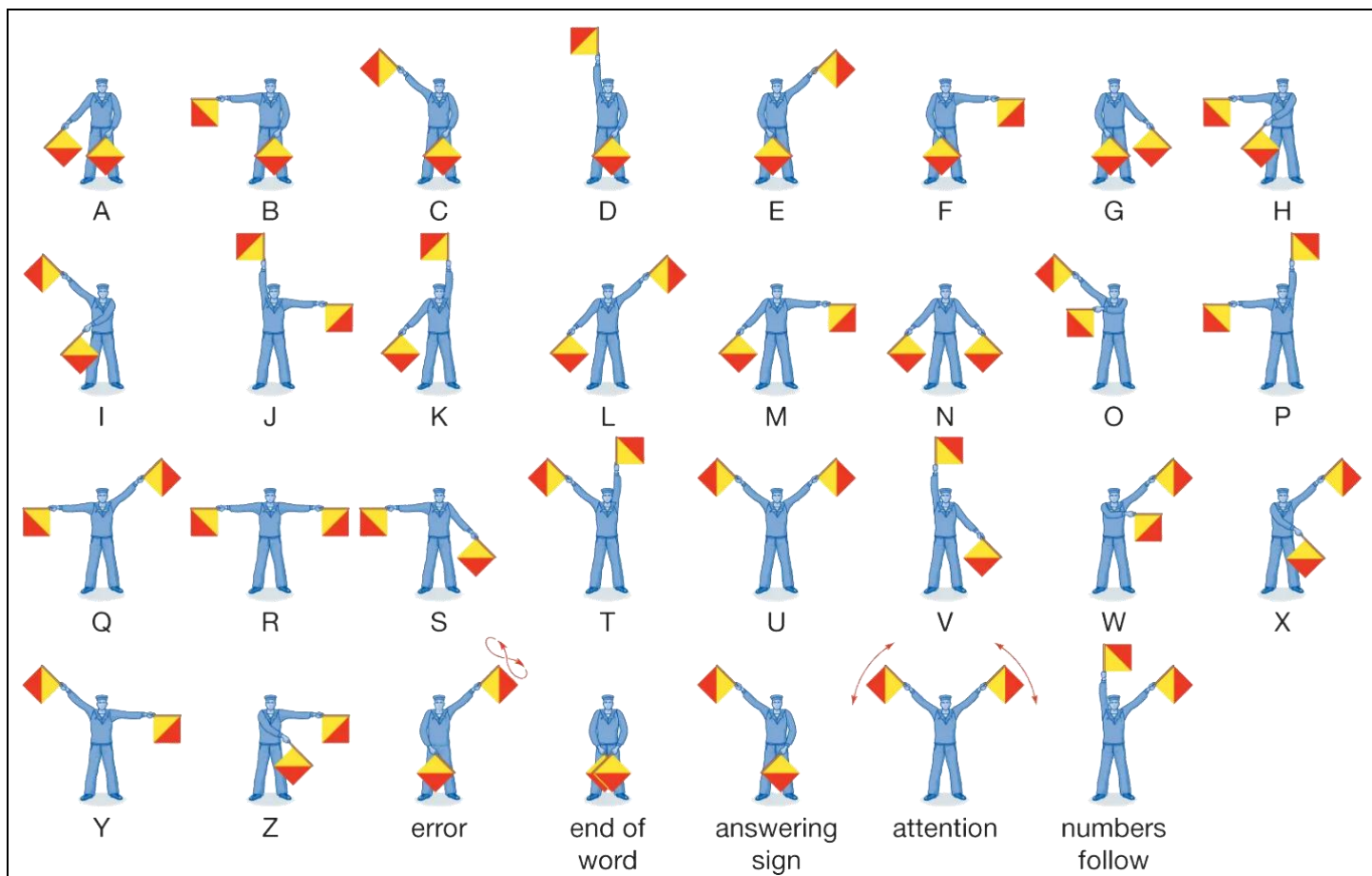
Message:





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REQUIREMENT 4: Give your counselor a brief explanation about semaphore, why it is used, how it is used, and where it is used.

Notes:



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REQUIREMENT 4: Explain the difference between semaphore flags and nautical flags.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 4a: Spell your first name using semaphore.

**This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.
BE PREPARED!**

Name:

REQUIREMENT 4a: Send or receive a message of six to 10 words using semaphore.

**This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.
BE PREPARED!**

Message:



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A-Alfa Diver Down Keep Clear	B-Bravo Dangerous Cargo	C-Charlie Yes	D-Delta Keep Clear	E-Echo Altering Course to Starboard	F-Foxtrot Disabled
G-Golf Want a Pilot	H-Hotel Pilot on Board	I-India Altering Course to Port	J-Juliet On Fire Keep Clear	K-Kilo Desire to Communicate	L-Lima Stop Instantly
M-Mike I Am Stopped	N-November No	O-Oscar Man Overboard	P-Papa About To Sail	Q-Quebec Request Pratique	R-Romeo Do Not Pass Ahead of Me
S-Sierra Engines Going Astern	T-Tango Keep Clear	U-Uniform Standing Into Danger	V-Victor Require Assistance	W-Whiskey Require Medical Assistance	X-Xray Stop Your Intention
Y-Yankee Am Dragging Anchor	Z-Zulu Require A Tug	0	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9
1st Repeater	2nd Repeater	3rd Repeater	Code & Answering		

REQUIREMENT 4b: Discuss the importance of nautical flags.

Notes:



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● ○	● ○	● ●	● ●	● ○	● ●	● ●	● ○	○ ●	○ ●	● ○	● ○	● ○	● ●
○ ○	● ○	○ ○	○ ●	○ ●	● ○	● ●	● ●	● ○	● ●	○ ○	● ●	○ ○	○ ○
○ ○	○ ○	○ ○	○ ○	○ ○	○ ○	○ ○	○ ○	○ ○	○ ○	○ ○	○ ○	● ○	● ○
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	
● ●	● ○	● ●	● ●	● ○	○ ●	○ ●	● ○	● ○	○ ●	● ●	● ●	● ○	○ ○
○ ●	○ ●	● ○	● ●	● ●	● ○	● ●	○ ○	● ○	● ○	● ●	○ ○	○ ●	○ ●
● ○	● ○	● ○	● ○	● ○	● ○	● ○	● ○	● ●	● ●	○ ●	● ●	● ●	● ●
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	
○ ●	● ○	● ○	● ●	● ●	● ○	● ●	● ●	● ○	○ ●	○ ●	○ ●		
○ ●	○ ○	● ○	○ ○	○ ●	○ ●	● ○	● ●	● ●	● ○	● ○	● ●		
● ●	○ ○	○ ○	○ ○	○ ○	○ ○	○ ○	○ ○	○ ○	○ ○	○ ○	○ ○		
#	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0			

REQUIREMENT 5: Explain the braille reading technique and how it helps individuals with sight impairment to communicate.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 5a: Either by sight or by touch, identify the letters of the braille alphabet that spell your name.

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.
BE PREPARED!

Name:

REQUIREMENT 5b: Create a message in braille at least six words long, and share this with your counselor.

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.
BE PREPARED!

Message:



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REQUIREMENT 6a: Describe to your counselor six sound-only signals that are in use today.

Sound Signal #1:

Sound Signal #2:

Sound Signal #3:

Sound Signal #4:

Sound Signal #5:

Sound Signal #6:

REQUIREMENT 6a: Discuss the pros and cons of using sound signals versus other types of signals.

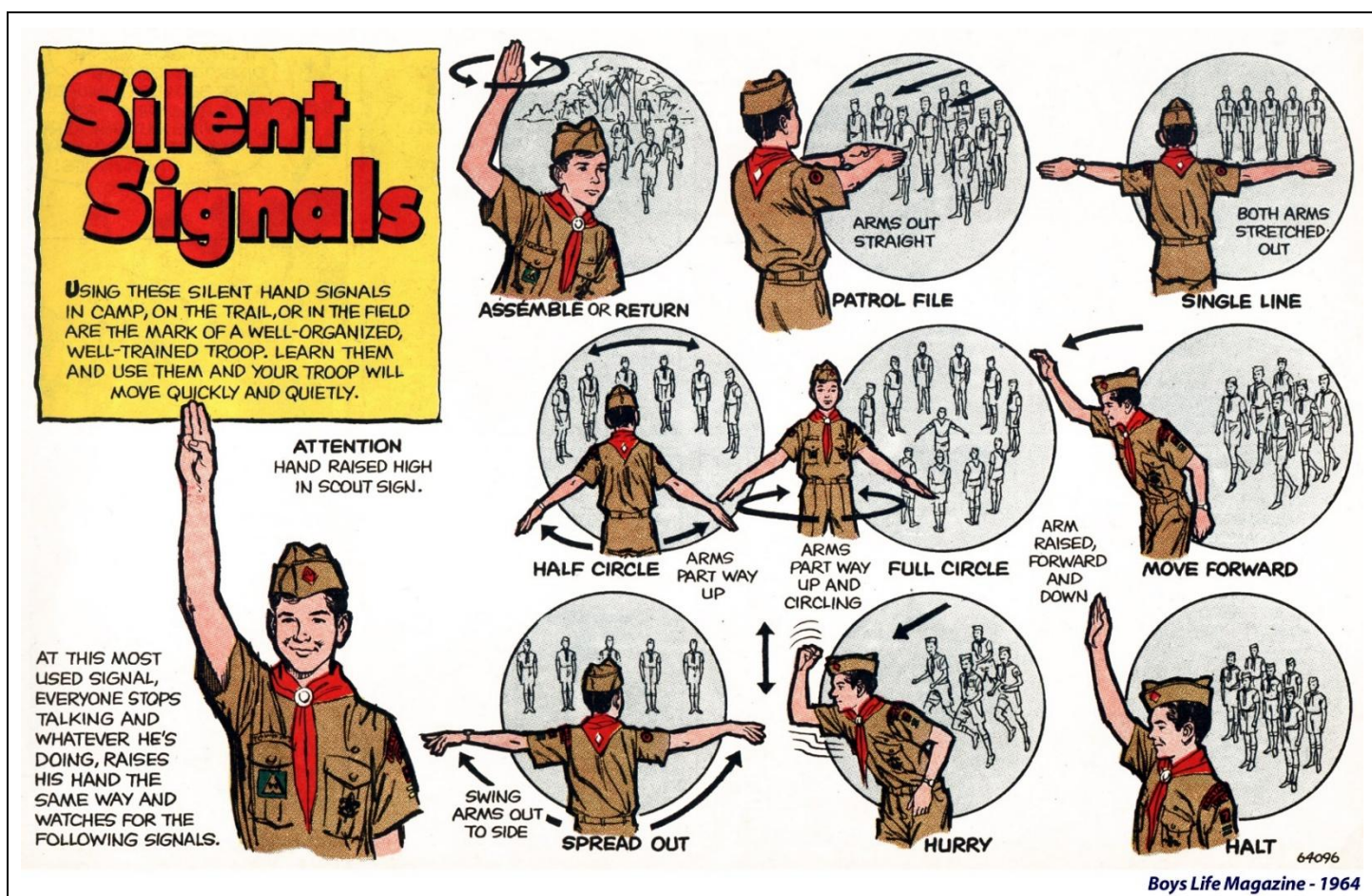
Pros

Cons



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REQUIREMENT 6b: Demonstrate to your counselor six different silent Scout signals. Use these Scout signals to direct the movements and actions to direct the movements and actions of your patrol or troop.

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.

BE PREPARED!

Notes:



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REQUIREMENT 7:

On a Scout outing, lay out a trail for your patrol or troop to follow. Cover at least one mile in distance and use at least six different trail signs and markers. After the Scouts have completed the trail, follow the Leave No Trace Seven Principles and the Outdoor Code by replacing or returning trail markers to their original locations.

This requirement will be done during the class and must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.

If this requirement has been completed prior to the class, you will need to have an Adult Leader's sign off
Remember, this sign off is not a guarantee of completion, completion is at the discretion and satisfaction of the merit badge counselor.

Scout Outing:

Date and Location:

Notes:

Adult's Name

Phone or Email

Adult's Signature

Date

☐

completed



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DO THREE OF THE FOLLOWING (8A, 8B, 8C, 8D, or 8E) FOR REQUIREMENT 8

REQUIREMENT 8a: Demonstrate five sports official's hand signs/signals. Tell what the signals mean and why they are used.

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.

BE PREPARED!

BASEBALL:



DO NOT PITCH



PLAY BALL



COUNT



OUT / STRIKE



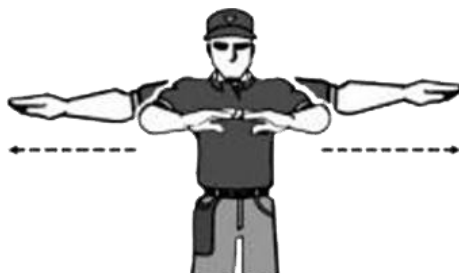
INFIELD FLY



TIME OUT / DEAD BALL



FAIR BALL



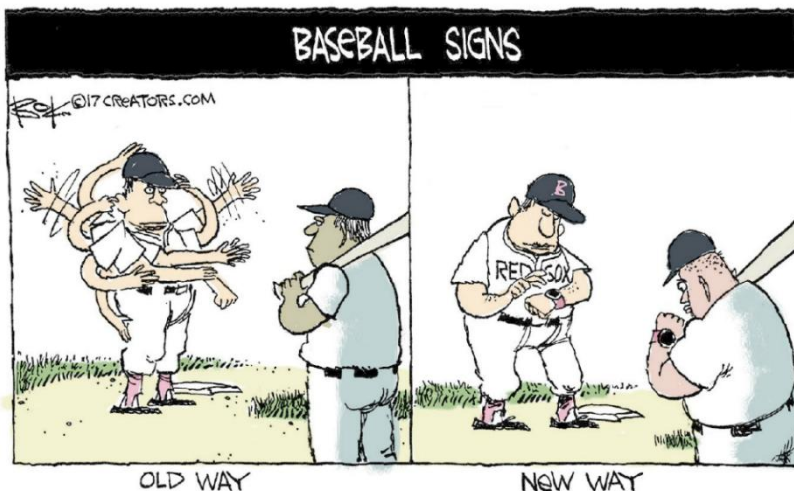
SAFE



FOUL BALL / FOUL TIP



TIME VIOLATION



OLD WAY

NEW WAY



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REQUIREMENT 8b: Demonstrate five heavy-equipment operator's hand signals. Tell what the signals mean and why they are used.

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.

BE PREPARED!

CRANE OPERATOR:



STOP



EMERGENCY STOP



HOIST



LOWER



LOWER BOOM



RAISE BOOM



MOVE SLOWLY



SWING

SPOTTER:



BACK UP



BACK, TURN LEFT



BACK, TURN RIGHT



STOP



SLOW DOWN



MOVE FORWARD



DISTANCE LEFT



















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REQUIREMENT 8c: Demonstrate five aircraft carrier catapult crew signals. Tell what the signals mean and why they are used.








This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.

AIRPLANE CAPTAIN	AIRPLANE CAPTAIN	AIRPLANE CAPTAIN	AIRPLANE CAPTAIN
			
AIRCRAFT APU START	ENGINE 1 START	ENGINE 1 START	ENGINE 2 START
AIRPLANE CAPTAIN	AIRPLANE CAPTAIN	AIRPLANE CAPTAIN	AIRPLANE CAPTAIN
			
ENGINE 2 START	SWITCH WING FLAPS TO AUTO	RAISE WING FLAPS	FLIGHT CONTROLS WIPEOUT
AIRPLANE CAPTAIN	AIRPLANE CAPTAIN	AIRPLANE CAPTAIN	AIRPLANE CAPTAIN
			
ELEVATOR / AILERON CHECK	LOWER / EXTEND WING FLAPS	LEFT RUDDER CHECK	RIGHT RUDDER CHECK
AIRPLANE CAPTAIN	AIRPLANE CAPTAIN	AIRCRAFT HANDLING OFFICER	AIRCRAFT HANDLING OFFICER
			
HANDS OFF CONTROLS	PASS CONTROL TO	REMOVE TIEDOWNS	UNFOLD WINGS



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AIRCRAFT HANDLING OFFICER	AIRCRAFT HANDLING OFFICER	AIRCRAFT HANDLING OFFICER	AIRCRAFT HANDLING OFFICER
 <p>MOVE AHEAD</p>	 <p>TURN LEFT</p>	 <p>TURN RIGHT</p>	 <p>STOP</p>
AIRCRAFT HANDLING OFFICER	AIRCRAFT HANDLING OFFICER	AIRCRAFT HANDLING OFFICER	AIRCRAFT HANDLING OFFICER
 <p>BRAKES ON</p>	 <p>EXTEND LAUNCH BAR</p>	 <p>UNFOLD WINGS</p>	 <p>TAKE TENSION</p>
SHOOTER	SHOOTER	SHOOTER	CATAPULT OFFICER
 <p>ENGINE RUN-UP</p>	 <p>SUSPEND</p>	 <p>LAUNCH</p>	 <p>CATAPULT READY</p>

Notes:



















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REQUIREMENT 8d: Demonstrate five cyclist's hand signals. Tell what the signals mean and why they are used.

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.

BE PREPARED!

Left Turn	Right Turn	Stop	Speed Up	Slow Down	Follow Me	You Lead / Come
						
Palm facing down	90 angle up, fist clenched	90 angle down, palm open facing back	Swing arm up to left turn position, palm open facing up, repeat	Swing arm down, palm open facing down, repeat	Arm held straight up; palm open facing forward	Arm extended 45 degrees, palm forward pointing with index finger, swing in arc from back to front
Hazard In Road	Single File	Double File	Comfort Stop	Refreshment Stop	Turn Signal On	Pull Off
						
On the left, point with left hand, on the right, point with right hand	Arm with index finger extended straight up	Arm with index and middle finger extended straight up	Forearm extended, fist clenched with short up and down motion	Fingers closed, thumb to mouth	Open and close hand with fingers and thumb extended	Arm positioned as for right turn; forearm swung toward shoulder
Cops Ahead	Fuel	Notes:				
						



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REQUIREMENT 8e: Demonstrate five signals from an activity selected by you and your counselor. Tell what the signals mean and why they are used.

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.

BE PREPARED!

See what you can determine and share it with the counselor.

Musical Notation

Cattle Branding

Proofreader's Marks

SCUBA Diving Signals

Waterskiing Gestures

Hobo Signs

Weather Symbols

Stock Market Hand Signals

REQUIREMENT 9: Share with your counselor 10 examples of symbols used in everyday life. Design your own symbol. Share it with your counselor and explain what it means.

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.

BE PREPARED!





REQUIREMENT 9a: Show examples of 10 traffic signs and explain their meaning.





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RED
Regulatory, immediate action.



ORANGE
Temporary road conditions.



YELLOW
Road conditions.



WHITE
Traffic regulation, helpful information.



GREEN
Directions, permitted movements.



BLUE
Road services, directions.



BROWN
Fun places to visit!



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REQUIREMENT 9b: Using a topographical map, explain what a map legend is and discuss its importance. Point out 10 map symbols and explain the meaning of each.

Use the following legend in conjunction with the following web article to be prepared for this requirement during the class

<https://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/topo-maps-how-to-use.html>

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP SYMBOLS

VARIAIONS WILL BE FOUND ON OLDER MAPS

Primary highway, hard surface		Boundaries: National	
Secondary highway, hard surface		State	
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface		County, parish, municipio	
Unimproved road		Civil township, precinct, town, barrio	
Road under construction, allinment known		Incorporated city, village, town, hamlet	
Proposed road		Reservation, National or State	
Dual highway, dividing strip 25 feet or less		Small park, cemetery, airport, etc.	
Dual highway, dividing strip exceeding 25 feet		Land grant	
Trail		Township or range line, United States land survey	
Railroad: single track and multiple track		Township or range line, approximate location	
Railroads in juxtaposition		Section line, United States land survey	
Narrow gage: single track and multiple track		Section line, approximate location	
Railroad in street and carline		Township line, not United States land survey	
Bridge: road and railroad		Section line, not United States land survey	
Drawbridge: road and railroad		Found corner: section and closing	
Footbridge		Boundary monument: land grant and other	
Tunnel: road and railroad		Fence or field line	
Overpass and underpass			
Small masonry or concrete dam		Index contour	
Dam with lock		Intermediate contour	
Dam with road		Supplementary contour	
Canal with lock		Depression contours	
Buildings (dwelling, place of employment, etc.)		Fill	
School, church, and cemetery		Cut	
Buildings (barn, warehouse, etc.)		Levee	
Power transmission line with located metal tower		Levee with road	
Telephone line, pipeline, etc. (labeled as to type)		Mine dump	
Wells other than water (labeled as to type)		Wash	
Tanks: oil, water, etc. (labeled only if water)		Tailings	
Located or landmark object; windmill		Tailings pond	
Open pit, mine, or quarry; prospect		Intricate surface	
Shaft and tunnel entrance		Gravel beach	
Horizontal and vertical control station:		Perennial streams	
Tablet, spirit level elevation	BM Δ 5653	Intermittent streams	
Other recoverable mark, spirit level elevation	Δ 5455	Elevated aqueduct	
Horizontal control station: tablet, vertical angle elevation VABM Δ 9519		Aqueduct tunnel	
Any recoverable mark, vertical angle or checked elevation	Δ 3775	Water well and spring	
Vertical control station: tablet, spirit level elevation	BM X 957	Glacier	
Other recoverable mark, spirit level elevation	X 954	Small rapids	
Spot elevation	X 7369 X 7369	Large rapids	
Water elevation	670 670	Intermittent lake	
		Dry lake bed	
		Foreshore flat	
		Sounding, depth curve	
		Exposed wreck	
		Rock, bare or awash; dangerous to navigation	
		Marsh (swamp)	
		Submerged marsh	
		Wooded marsh	
		Mangrove	
		Woods or brushwood	
		Orchard	
		Vineyard	
		Scrub	
		Land subject to controlled inundation	
		Urban area	



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REQUIREMENT 9c: Discuss text-message symbols and why they are commonly used.

CHAT EMOTICONS																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																
😊 :)	😄 :d	😏 :p	😁 ;))	😄 (op)	👉 (go)	💰 \$bu	💰 \$bl	💰 \$cw	💰 \$ci	💰 \$si	💰 \$wa	😎 \$yo	💰 \$he	🎲 \$r1	😄 \$r2	👉 \$r3	😄 \$r4	💰 \$u3	👉 \$y1	👉 \$we	😄 (lol)	😄 (mdr)	😄 \$ii	😄 \$ll	😄 :o	😄 :	😄 (ah)	😄 (OO)	😄 (oo)	👉 (pa)	👉 \$?	😄 \$no	😄 \$oo	😄 \$hin	😄 :s	😄 *-(👉 :-*	😄 8-	😄 ^o	😄 *-)	😄 -(😄 \$cd	😄 :^)	👉 \$mm	👉 \$pu	👉 \$ki	👉 <:o)	😄 :q	👉 (el)	😄 (mi)	👉 \$fo	👉 \$ho	👉 \$hp	👉 \$wn	👉 \$wt	👉 \$pt	👉 \$fk	👉 :('	👉 \$pl	👉 \$tr	😄 (tri)	😄 \$pp	😄 :(😄 (O(😄 (ey)	😄 (rr)	😄 (va)	😄 (mm)	😄 (te)	😄 :-#	😄 8-	😄 8o	😄 \$ri	😄 \$ai	😄 \$pa	😄 \$to	😄 \$me	😄 \$ay	😄 \$arf	👉 \$i1	— \$i2	— \$i3	😄 \$og	👉 \$y2	😄 \$a1	👉 \$oi	😄 \$w3	👉 \$w4	😄 \$w5	👉 \$fu	👉 \$sl	👉 (y)	👉 (n)	👉 (yn)	👉 (h5)	👉 \$ng	😄 :@	👉 (li)	😄 (to)	👉 \$gr	😄 \$GR	😄 \$de	😄 +o(👉 \$es	😄 \$ye	👉 \$e2	👉 \$e3	👉 \$e4	👉 \$e5	😄 (h)	😄 (cp)	👉 \$ko	😄 \$hh	💡 (i)	👉 (?)	👉 \$66	⭐ (*)	🌈 (r)	☀ (#)	👉 \$sh	👉 (um)	👉 (st)	👉 (t)	👉 (e)	👉 (m)	👉 :r	👉 (mp)	👉 \$lt	👉 \$bp	😄 :\$	👉 (}	👉 ({	❤ (l)	❤ (u)	👉 (x)	👉 (z)	👉 :f	👉 (f)	👉 (w)	👉 (ro)	😄 (a)	👉 (6)	👉 \$am	👉 (p)	👉 \$ks	❤ \$mg	👉 \$lv	👉 (k)	👉 ;,	👉 (f)	👉 (w)	👉 (ro)	😄 (a)	👉 (6)	👉 \$am	👉 (p)	👉 (~)	👉 \$cl	👉 \$ap	👉 (^)	👉 (8)	👉 (88)	👉 \$mu	👉 (888)	👉 \$li	👉 \$tv	👉 \$tw	👉 (s)	👉 (o)	😄 -)	😄 (brb)	😄 (ti)	👉 (lit)	😄 \$zz	👉 \$aa	👉 \$ma	👉 \$be	👉 \$tt	👉 (au)	👉 (ap)	👉 \$b1	👉 \$b2	👉 \$b3	👉 (mo)	👉 (so)	👉 (co)	👉 :g	👉 :b	👉 \$gt	👉 :n	👉 :z	✅ :v	EXIT :x	👉 (ca)	👉 (mic)	👉 (sp)	👉 \$gp	👉 :m	👉 :M	👉 :f	👉 :F	👉 :c	👉 :a	👉 :C	👉 :[👉 (@)	👉 (&)	👉 (sn)	👉 (bah)	👉 (rf)	👉 (coc)	👉 (vac)	👉 (si)	👉 (oi)	👉 (gr)	👉 (lap)	👉 \$an	👉 \$ou	👉 (tu)	👉 \$at	👉 \$pj	👉 \$fg	👉 \$pn	👉 \$pe	👉 \$pi	👉 \$bt	👉 \$c1	👉 \$c2	👉 \$c3	👉 \$cj	👉 \$cc	👉 \$do	👉 \$ti	👉 \$s1	👉 \$s2	👉 \$s3	👉 \$se	👉 \$co	👉 \$sn	👉 \$ol	👉 \$mh	👉 \$ct	👉 \$ph	👉 \$sy	👉 \$zo	👉 \$hr	👉 \$in	👉 \$nn	👉 \$nr	👉 \$st	👉 \$ss	👉 \$cq	👉 \$gg	👉 \$la	👉 \$ps	👉 \$da	👉 \$bs	👉 \$dd	👉 \$ep	👉 \$v1	👉 \$v2	👉 \$vv	👉 (ip)	👉 \$va	👉 \$et	👉 \$mt	👉 \$so	👉 \$us	👉 \$ar1	👉 \$ar2	👉 \$m1	👉 \$m2	👉 \$m3	👉 \$m4	👉 \$m5	👉 \$ff	👉 \$cp	👉 (pl)	👉 (pi)	👉 ()	👉 \$ce	👉 \$fr	👉 \$scr	👉 \$gl	👉 \$lo	😄 \$mi	👉 \$ba	👉 \$ca	👉 \$ha	👉 \$po	👉 \$bd	👉 \$hb	👉 \$fm	👉 \$ra	👉 \$nt	👉 \$bz	👉 \$dj	👉 \$op	👉 \$gc	👉 \$pm	👉 \$ml	👉 \$hd	👉 \$on	👉 (b)	👉 (d)	👉 (c)	👉 :t	👉 (pr)	👉 \$ch	👉 \$ve	👉 \$em	👉 \$cf	👉 \$bx	👉 \$ts	👉 (fl)	👉 (ma)	👉 (val)	👉 (ms)	👉 (po)	👉 (lu)	👉 \$as	👉 \$br	👉 \$cs	👉 \$sa	👉 \$sm	👉 \$vi	👉 \$bh	👉 \$ja	👉 \$mz	👉 \$lu	👉 \$uu	👉 \$u1	👉 \$u2	👉 \$y3	👉 \$y4	👉 \$y5	👉 \$u4	👉 ;c	👉 ;k	👉 \$wc	👉 \$vc	👉 \$bk	👉 \$if	👉 (ci)	👉 \$mo	👉 \$rp	👉 \$d1	👉 \$d2	👉 \$d3	👉 \$d4	👉 \$d5	👉 \$d6	👉 \$d7	👉 \$sc	👉 \$d8	👉 \$d9	👉 \$um	👉 \$d0	👉 \$ms	👉 \$w1	👉 \$w2	👉 \$su	👉 (al)	👉 (br)	👉 (bl)	👉 (rs)	👉 (la)	👉 \$fi	👉 \$f1	👉 \$f2	👉 \$f3	👉 \$f4	👉 \$f5	👉 \$f6	👉 \$f7	👉 \$f8	👉 \$f9	👉 \$fa	👉 \$fq	👉 \$yl	👉 \$rb	👉 \$h1	👉 \$h2	👉 \$h3	👉 \$h4	👉 \$h5	👉 \$h6	👉 \$h7	👉 \$is	👉 \$cu	👉 \$cv	👉 \$cz	👉 \$kf	👉 (%)	👉 (cl)	👉 \$%	👉 \$cn	👉 \$tu	👉 \$bo	👉 \$ta	👉 \$oe	👉 (bo)	👉 \$wh	👉 \$fe	👉 \$wp	👉 (g)	❄ \$ne	👉 \$nl	👉 \$cm	👉 \$sp	👉 \$bn	👉 \$le	👉 \$ro	👉 \$rO	👉 \$aq	👉 \$ee



Signs, Signals, and Codes Merit Badge Workbook

SCOUTMASTER BUCKY

REQUIREMENT 9c: Give examples of your favorite 10 text symbols or emoticons. Then see if your parent, guardian, or counselor can identify the meaning or usage of each symbol.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 10: Briefly discuss the history of secret code writing (cryptography).

Notes:



Signs, Signals, and Codes Merit Badge Workbook

SCOUTMASTER BUCKY

REQUIREMENT 10:

Make up your own secret code and write a message of up to 25 words using this code. Share the message with a friend or fellow Scout. Then share the message and code key with your counselor and discuss the effectiveness of your code.

Your Code:

Message: