



Mining in Society

Merit Badge Workbook



This workbook can help you but you still need to read the merit badge pamphlet.
This Workbook can help you organize your thoughts as you prepare to meet with your merit badge counselor

Merit Badge Counselors may not require the use of this or any similar workbooks.

You still must satisfy your counselor that you can demonstrate each skill and have learned the information. You should use the work space provided for each requirement to keep track of which requirements have been completed, and to make notes for discussing the item with your counselor, not for providing full and complete answers.

If a requirement says that you must take an action using words such as "discuss", "show", "tell", "explain", "demonstrate", "identify", etc, that is what you must do.

No one may add or subtract from the official requirements found on Scouting.org.

The requirements were last revised on January 1, 2024 • This workbook was updated in January 2024.

Scout's Name: _____ Unit _____ Date Started _____

Counselor's Name: _____ Phone No.: _____ Email: _____

Please submit errors, omissions, comments or suggestions about this **workbook** to: Workbooks@USScouts.Org
Comments or suggestions for changes to the **requirements** for the **merit badge** should be sent to: Merit.Badge@Scouting.Org

1. Do the following:

a. Select 10 different minerals. For each one, name a product for which the mineral is used.

	Mineral	Product for which the mineral is used
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		

b. Explain the role mining has in production and processing things that are grown.

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In your discussion, explain how:

- a. The miner's personal protective equipment is worn and used, including a hard hat, safety glasses, earplugs, dust mask or respirator, self-rescue device, and high-visibility vest.

Hard hat	
Safety glasses	
Earplugs	
Dust mask or respirator	
Self-rescue device	
High-visibility vest	

- b. Miners protect their hands and feet from impact, pinch, vibration, slipping, and tripping/falling hazards.

Impact hazards	
Pinch hazards	
Vibration hazards	
Slipping hazards	
Tripping/falling hazards	

- c. Monitoring equipment warns miners of imminent danger, and how robots are used in mine rescues.

and how robots are used in mine rescues.

- 4.. Discuss with your counselor the dangers someone might encounter at an abandoned mine or quarry.

5. Do one of the following:

- a. With your parent or guardian's approval and your counselor's assistance, use the Internet to find and take a virtual tour of two types of mines.

	Type of Mine	Location	Date of Virtual Tour
1.			
2.			

Determine the similarities and differences between them regarding resource exploration, mine planning and permitting, types of equipment used, and the minerals produced.

	Similarities	Differences
Resource exploration		
Mine planning planning and permitting		
Types of equipment used		
Minerals produced		

Discuss with your counselor what you learned from your Internet-based mine tours.

- b. With your parent or guardian's permission and counselor's approval, visit a mining or minerals exhibit at a museum.

Museum Exhibit Date

Find out about the history of the museum's exhibit and the type of mining it represents.

Type of mining it represents

Give three examples of how mineral resources have influenced history.

1.	
2.	
3.	

- c. With your parent or guardian's permission and counselor's approval, visit an active mine.*

Mine Visited: Date:

Find out about the tasks required to explore, plan, permit, mine, and process the resource mined at that site.

Explore	
Plan	
Permit	
Mine	
Process the resource	

- Take photographs if allowed, and request brochures from your visit.

Share photos, brochures, and what you have learned with your counselor.

***Visiting a mine site, a mining equipment manufacturer, or an equipment supplier requires advance planning. These sites can be potentially dangerous. You will need permission from your parents and counselor, and the manager of the mine site, or equipment manufacturer or supplier. While there, you will be required to follow closely the site manager's instructions and comply with all safety rules and procedures, including wearing appropriate clothing, footwear, and personal safety equipment.**

- d. With your parent or guardian's permission and counselor's approval, visit a mining equipment manufacturer or supplier.*

Place Visited: Date:

Discuss the types of equipment produced or supplied there, and in what part of the mining process this equipment is used.

Types of equipment produced or supplied:

In what part of the mining process is this equipment used.:

- Take photographs if allowed, and request brochures from your visit.

Share photos, brochures, and what you have learned with your counselor.

- e. Discuss with your counselor two methods used to reduce rock in size, one of which uses a chemical process to extract a mineral.

1.	
2.	

Explain the difference between smelting and refining.

- f Learn about the history of a local mine, including what is or was mined there, how the deposit was found, the mining techniques and processes used, and how the mined resource is or was used.

What is or was mined there

How was the deposit found

Techniques and processes used

How the mined resource is or was used

Find out from a historian, community leader, or business person how mining has affected your community.

Note any social, cultural, or economic consequences of mining in your area.

Share what you have learned with your counselor.

6. Do the following:

a. Choose a modern mining site. _____

Find out what is being done to help control environmental impacts.

Share what you have learned about mining and sustainability.

b. Explain reclamation as it is used in mining and how mine reclamation pertains to Scouting's no-trace principles.

- c. Discuss with your counselor what values society has about returning the land to the benefit of wildlife and people after mining has ended.

Discuss the transformation of the BSA Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve from a mine site to its current role.

7. Do one of the following:

- a. Explore the anticipated benefits of interplanetary mining. Learn how NASA and private investors may search for, extract, and process minerals in outer space, and the primary reasons for mining the moon, other planets, or near-Earth asteroids. Find out how exploration and mineral processing in space differ from exploration on Earth. Share what you have learned with your counselor, and discuss the difficulties encountered in exploring, collecting, and analyzing surface or near-surface samples in outer space.

- b. Identify three minerals found dissolved in seawater or found on the ocean floor, and list three places where the ocean is mined today.

Minerals found dissolved in seawater
or found on the ocean floor

Places where the ocean is mined today

1.		
2.		
3.		

Share this information with your counselor, and discuss the chief incentives for mining the oceans for minerals, the reclamation necessary after mining is over, and any special concerns when mining minerals from the ocean. Find out what sustainability problems arise from mining the oceans. Discuss what you learn with your counselor.

- c. Learn what metals and minerals are recycled after their original use has ended.

List four metals and two nonmetals, and find out how each can be recycled.

	Metals:	How can it be recycled?
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		

	Nonmetals	How can it be recycled?
1.		
2.		

Find out how recycling affects the sustainability of natural resources and how this idea is related to mining.

Discuss what you learn with your counselor.

- d. With your parent or guardian's permission, use the Internet and other resources to determine the current price of gold, copper, aluminum, or other commodities like cement or coal, and find out the five-year price trend for two of these.

	Commodity	Current Price	Five-year price trend
<input type="checkbox"/>	Gold		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Copper		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Aluminum		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Cement		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Coal		
<input type="checkbox"/>			

Report your findings to your counselor.

8. Do one of the following:

- a. With your parent or guardian's and counselor's approval, meet with a worker in the mining industry.

Worker: Date:

Discuss the work, equipment, and technology used in this individual's position, and learn about a current project. Ask to see reports, drawings, and/or maps made for the project. Find out about the educational and professional requirements for this individual's position. Ask how the individual's mining career began. Discuss with your counselor what you have learned.

- b. Find out about three career opportunities in the mining industry.

1.	
2.	
3.	

Pick one and find out the education, training, and experience required for this profession.

Career	
Education	
Training	
Experience	

Discuss this with your counselor, and explain why this profession might interest you.

- c. With your parent or guardian's permission and counselor's approval, visit a college, university, or trade school to learn about educational and training requirements for a position in the mining industry that interests you.

Location visited:	
Position that interests you:	

Find out why this position is critical to the mining industry, and discuss what you learned with your counselor.

When working on merit badges, Scouts and Scouters should be aware of some vital information in the current edition of the *Guide to Advancement* (BSA publication 33088). Important excerpts from that publication can be downloaded from <http://usscouts.org/advance/docs/GTA-Excerpts-meritbadges.pdf>. You can download a complete copy of the *Guide to Advancement* from <http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33088.pdf>.