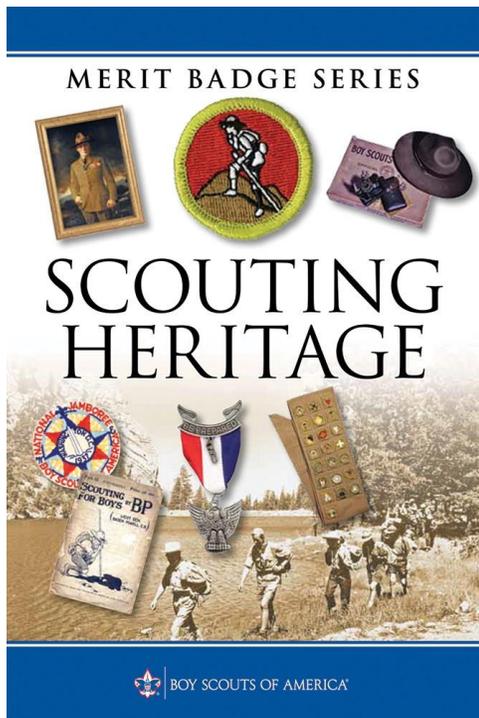


How to bring the Scouting Heritage merit badge to life

By Mark Ray

From the May-June 2016 issue of *Scouting* magazine



“If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.” Isaac Newton wrote that in 1676; in 2016, the Scouting Heritage merit badge lets Scouts look further as well.

It introduces them to giants of Scouting like Robert Baden-Powell, Daniel Carter Beard, Waite Phillips and more. It helps Scouts claim their own place in Scouting history. And it can, if done incorrectly, be a little dry.

The challenge for Scouting Heritage merit badge counselors is bringing history to life. For Richard Clem, a counselor from St. Paul, MN, that means offering Scouts an array of 21st-century resources about mostly 20th-century topics. At bit.ly/ScoutingHeritage, Clem has created a directory of online resources that supplement the merit badge pamphlet. To learn about requirement 2b, for example, Scouts can access primary sources like Baden-Powell’s *Scouting for Boys* and the 1911 edition of the *Handbook for Boys*. They can visit the website of Brownsea Island, where Baden-Powell held his first Scout camp.

Ellen Mercante, a counselor in St. Charles, MO, has found that Scouting artifacts serve as great discussion starters for requirement 3 (discuss how Scouting’s programs have evolved). She has combed eBay and estate sales to

find items like vintage merit badge sashes, old issues of *Boys’ Life* and even a Steve Scout doll (a Kenner toy from 1974) to show Scouts. “The kids are always surprised to see that,” she says. “They think it’s fun.”

Mercante doesn’t just show and tell, though; she encourages Scouts to interact with her artifacts, whether that means trying on a vintage Scout shirt or guessing the names of old merit badges. “It’s interesting to see merit badges that aren’t around anymore,” she says.

While history can be messy, the Scouting Heritage requirements are quite orderly, moving naturally from Scouting’s roots to the present. That doesn’t mean you have to cover them in order. Especially if you’re teaching the badge in a half-day or full-day session. Mercante recommends jumping around, interspersing discussions of history with the old-time Scouting games played for requirement 7. “If it becomes too much like school, we lose them,” she says.

Games like Old Spotty-Face seem pretty dated to most Scouts, but the activity called “Kim’s Game” is something many units still play today. “It’s really surprising to me how little many things have changed,” Clem says. “There are some interesting games and skills and things in early Scout books that are probably just as relevant today.”

Mercante sometimes uses connections between then and now to enrich her Scouts’ interviews with veteran Scouters (requirement 8). She’ll ask Scouts what they like about camping and then encourage them to ask the same questions of their interviewees. “Once they get talking, their eyes will light up, and then all of a sudden they’re thinking about a million questions,” she says.

Those same questions can be a good start for requirement 5, in which Scouts learn about the history of their unit or Scouting in their area. At one recent session, some Scouts were having trouble with that requirement since their troop was less than a year old. Her response perfectly encapsulated the purpose of the badge: “You guys are making the history.”

For more tips on teaching Scouting Heritage — including a free PowerPoint presentation — visit bit.ly/ScoutingHeritageBOS.

Scouting Heritage Merit Badge



Working on the Scouting Heritage merit badge helps Scouts learn the history of the Boy Scouts of America. They'll learn it all – from Scouting's beginnings under Lord Baden-Powell to the history of their own troop.

Scouting Heritage Merit Badge Requirements

1. Discuss with your counselor the life and times of Lord Baden-Powell of Gilwell. Explain why he felt a program like Scouting would be good for the young men of his day. Include in your discussion how Scouting was introduced in the United States, and the origins of Boy Scouting and Cub Scouting under Baden-Powell.
2. Do the following:
 - a. Give a short biographical summary of any TWO of the following, and tell of their roles in how Scouting developed and grew in the United States prior to 1940.
 1. Daniel Carter Beard
 2. William D. Boyce
 3. Waite Phillips
 4. Ernest Thompson Seton
 5. James E. West
3. Discuss the significance to Scouting of any TWO of the following:
 - a. Brownsea Island
 - b. The First World Scout Jamboree
 - c. Boy Scout Handbook
 - d. Boys' Life magazine
 - e. Discuss with your counselor how Scouting's programs have developed over time and been adapted to fit different age groups and interests (Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, Exploring, Venturing).
4. Do ONE of the following:
 - a. Attend either a BSA national jamboree, OR world Scout jamboree, OR a national BSA high-adventure base. While there, keep a journal documenting your day-to-day experiences. Upon your return, report to your counselor what you did, saw, and learned. You may include photos, brochures, and other documents in your report.
 - b. Write or visit the National Scouting Museum in Irving, TX.* Obtain information about this facility. Give a short report on what you think the role of this museum is in the Scouting program.
** If you visited the BSA's traveling tour, Adventure Base 100, in 2010, you may use that experience to fulfill requirement 4b.*
5. Learn about the history of your unit or Scouting in your area. Interview at least two people (one from the past and one from the present) associated with your troop. These individuals could be adult unit leaders, Scouts, troop committee members, or representatives of your troop's chartered organization. Find out when your unit was originally chartered. Create a report of your findings on the history of your troop, and present it to your patrol or troop or at a court of honor, and then add it to the troop's library. This presentation could be in the form of an oral/written report, an exhibit, a scrapbook, or a computer presentation such as a slide show.
6. Make a collection of some of your personal patches and other Scouting memorabilia. With their permission, you may include items borrowed from family members or friends who have been in Scouting in the past, or you may include photographs of these items. Show this collection to your counselor, and share what you have learned about items in the collection. (There is no requirement regarding how large or small this collection must be.)
7. Reproduce the equipment for an old-time Scouting game such as those played at Brownsea Island. You may find one on your own (with your counselor's approval), or pick one from the Scouting Heritage merit badge pamphlet. Teach and play the game with other Scouts.
8. Interview at least three people (different from those you interviewed for requirement 5) over the age of 50 who were Scouts. Find out about their Scouting experiences. Ask about the impact that Scouting has had on their lives. Share what you learned with your counselor.

Ask the Expert: How to complete Scouting Heritage MB Requirement 4B

April 7, 2014 Bryan Wendell Ask the Expert (Note: The requirements have changed slightly since this article was written)



**ASK THE
EXPERT**

If you have a Scout working on Scouting Heritage merit badge Requirement 4, Joe Connoles your guy.

The programs coordinator and lead admissions clerk for the BSA's National Scouting Museum in Irving, TX, is in charge of answering letters and emails from

Scouts working on that merit badge.

A Scout has two options for completing Requirement 4 of Scouting Heritage merit badge, each involving keeping a journal or writing a report: (*Updated to current requirements since article was originally written.*)

- Attend either a BSA national jamboree, OR world Scout jamboree, OR a national BSA high-adventure base. While there, keep a journal documenting your day-to-day experiences. Upon your return, report to your counselor what you did, saw, and learned. You may include photos, brochures, and other documents in your report.
- Write or visit the National Scouting Museum in Irving, TX.* Obtain information about this facility. Give a short report on what you think the role of this museum is in the Scouting program.

** If you visited the BSA's traveling tour, Adventure Base 100, in 2010, you may use that experience to fulfill requirement 4b.*

Scouts who choose to write the National Scouting Museum (4B), will need to contact Joe. If they do, they'll get a response with a letter, a brochure, and — drumroll please — the awesome free patch seen below. To help Scouts taking this merit badge and counselors teaching it, Joe shared some details on how it works:

First, write a letter or email to the museum

Scouts must either write (email or regular mail) or visit the National Scouting Museum and obtain information about the facility.

Scouts will receive a letter, fact sheet, brochure and the patch seen here.

The patch is the only way a counselor can verify that the Scout has actually written or visited the Museum.

They can contact Joe either by email (joseph.connoles@scouting.org) or via regular mail:

Joe Connoles
1329 W Walnut Hill Ln.
Irving, TX 75038

Scouts must include the following information: first and last name, current Scout rank and their mailing address.

Information will not be sent to counselors or Scoutmasters, only to Scouts working on the merit badge.

If a troop is working on the merit badge, they can write a single letter as long as each Scout signs and writes his name showing that he worked on the letter.



Parents or leaders should verify that the Scout's information appears legible and is accurate; Joe receives a number of letters every year where the Scout's information isn't legible or is inaccurate.

Then, wait for a response

Mailings are done every Wednesday; Scouts should allow at least three weeks for a response.

Joe receives more than 1,000 letters every year (last year that accounted for 28 percent of all Scouts who earned this MB), and while he strives to send information within three weeks, there are times when that is not possible.

Other Scouting Heritage MB advice

As for the other requirements, Joe strongly suggests that Scouts get the merit badge book as well as the reprint of the first-edition Boy Scout Handbook to complete Requirement 7.

Counselors should notice that Requirement 8 doesn't say that they must talk to a *man* over the age of 40 who was a *Boy Scout*. It says to speak to *someone* over the age of 40 who was a Scout.

Joe also created a PowerPoint presentation that covers Requirements 1 to 3.

The Boy Scouts of America Announces Relocation of National Scouting Museum to Iconic Philmont Scout Ranch

Moving the Official Museum of the Boy Scouts of America to New Mexico Expands Ability to Share Scouting's Rich History with More Visitors

IRVING, TX – (December 5, 2016) — Today, the Boy Scouts of America announced the decision to relocate the National Scouting Museum to Philmont Scout Ranch in northern New Mexico. Supported by generous donors, a new expansion of the Philmont Museum and Seton Memorial Library and Education Center will be built in 2017 to allow the organization to share the rich history of Scouting with more visitors, including the tens of thousands of campers, volunteers and alumni that visit Philmont each year.

For decades, the National Scouting Museum has played an important role in preserving and telling the rich story of the Boy Scouts of America and the positive impact Scouting continues to have on youth and families. The museum is committed to preserving the rich, 100-plus-year history of the Scouting movement by collecting, organizing, preserving and displaying some of Scouting's greatest treasures, including 600,000 artifacts. This collection not only documents Scouting's unique influence on American culture, but also tells the story of a movement that has positively affected the lives of more than 110 million young people.

"We honor the trust placed in our organization by generous donors and benefactors by continuously assessing our stewardship of all of the historical assets entrusted to the Boy Scouts of America," explained Rick Bragga, chairman of the National Scouting Museum Committee. "We considered all possibilities and decided that relocating the museum to the iconic Philmont Scout Ranch best accelerates what the museum is trying to accomplish."

The National Scouting Museum, formerly the Johnston Memorial Museum, was established in New Brunswick, NJ, in 1959 as the official museum of the Boy Scouts of America. It was then moved to the grounds of Murray State University in western Kentucky in 1986. In 2002, it was relocated to Irving, Texas, adjacent to the BSA's National Service Center.

"We are humbled and excited about the opportunity to welcome the National Scouting Museum to northeastern New Mexico in 2018," said Mark Anderson, director of program at Philmont Scout Ranch. "Since our first camping season in 1938, more than 1 million Scouts, Venturers and leaders have experienced the adventure of Philmont, and we look forward to introducing the thousands of visitors we get annually to the rich history of Scouting by adding this important attraction to our community."

For more information about the National Scouting Museum, visit www.bsamuseum.org.