

Communication Merit Badge

The Communication merit badge is a four-hour session. Scouts should bring a snack and water. Please, no red liquids.

What to bring:

- Blue card, pen and pencil.
- Snack and water.
- Prework.

Prework

3. Write a five-minute speech. Present it at a meeting of a group.*
Provide a copy for your counselor to review.
4. Interview a person you know, like, or respect because of his or her position, talent, career, or life experiences. Listen actively and take notes.
Use this information to prepare a formal introduction as if they were a guest speaker at an event. Highlight their experiences, education, and important qualities. The interview may be done virtually.
5. Attend a public meeting (city council, school board, debate) where several points of view are presented on a single issue and are discussed. Attend either in person or virtually. Have the meeting you select approved by your counselor in advance if the meeting is other than a Fairfax County government (including school) board meeting. Practice active listening. Prepare an objective report that includes all points of view that were expressed.*
7. Do **ONE** of the following:
 - a. Write to the editor of a magazine or your local newspaper to express your opinion or to share information on any subject you choose. Send your

message by fax, email or regular mail.

Provide a copy for your counselor to review.

b. Create a web page or blog of special interest to you (for instance, your troop or crew, a hobby, or a sport). Include at least three articles or entries, one photograph or illustration, and one link to some other Web page or blog that would be helpful to someone who visits the Web page or blog you have created. It is not necessary to post your Web page or blog to the Internet, but if you decide to do so, you must first share it with your parents and counselor and get their permission prior to submission.

Provide a copy for your counselor to review.

c. Use desktop publishing to produce a newsletter, brochure, flier or other printed material for your scout troop, class at school, or another group. Include at least one article and one photograph or illustration.

Provide a copy for your counselor to review.

8. Plan a troop or crew court of honor, campfire program, or an interfaith worship service. Have the patrol leaders' council approve it, then write the script and prepare the program. Serve as master of ceremonies. If your scoutmaster approves, this can be done virtually.

Provide a copy of the script and other evidence, such as photos or an outline, for your counselor to review. Please obtain a signature or email from your scoutmaster noting the date that you served as master of ceremonies for the program you prepared. Your blue card will only be signed when the ceremony has been completed and the script and signature/email of the scoutmaster are presented.

For help or questions, contact Suzanne Holland at Suzanne.holland@fairfaxcounty.gov or at (703) 941-1065.

*Several other merit badges have requirements that can be counted for number 3. If your scout has already completed the Weather Merit Badge (Requirement 10a), the RepBtiles and Amphibians Merit Badge (Requirement 9c) or the Public Speaking Mbadge (Requirements 1-4), they may use those requirements for number 3.

*If your scout has already attended a meeting for the Citizenship in the Community merit badge (Requirement 3), they may use that requirement for number 5.