



Personal Management

Merit Badge Workbook

This workbook can help you but you still need to read the merit badge pamphlet (book). No one can add or subtract from the Boy Scout Requirements #33215. Merit Badge Workbooks and much more are below: [Online Resources](#).

Worksheet developer: craig@craiglincoln.com. Requirements revised: 2003, Workbook updated: March 2008.

Scout's Name: _____ Unit: _____

Counselor's Name: _____ Counselor's Ph #: _____

1. Do the following:

a. Choose an item that your family might want to purchase that is considered a major expense. _____

b. Write a plan that tells how your family would save money for the purchase identified in requirement 1a. _____

1. Discuss the plan with your merit badge counselor. _____

2. Discuss the plan with your family. _____

3. Discuss how other family needs must be considered in this plan. _____

c. Develop a written shopping strategy for the purchase identified in requirement 1a.

1. Determine the quality of the item or service (using consumer publications or ratings systems). _____

2. Comparison shop for the item. Find out where you can buy the item for the best price. (Provide prices from at least two different price sources.)

Store: _____ Price: _____

Store: _____ Price: _____

Store: _____ Price: _____

Store: _____ Price: _____

Call around; study ads. Look for a sale or discount coupon. Consider alternatives. _____

Can you buy the item used? _____

Should you wait for a sale? _____

2. Do the following:

a. Prepare a budget reflecting your expected income (allowance, gifts, wages), expenses, and savings.

Sample Budget Plan

Income Sources	Budgeted Amounts					Actual Amounts				Tot. Actual- Tot. Budget
	per Week	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Total	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Total	
Allowance										
Gifts										
Wages										
Other										
Income Totals										
Expenses	per Week	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Total	Month 1	Month 2	Month 3	Total	Act.-Budget
Savings-pay yourself 1st										
Expense Totals										
Income - Expenses										

Track your actual income, expenses, and savings for 13 *consecutive* weeks. When complete, present the results to your merit badge counselor.

b. Compare expected income with expected expenses. _____

1. If expenses exceed income, determine steps to balance your budget.

2. If income exceeds expenses, state how you would use the excess money (new goal, savings). _____

3. Discuss with your merit badge counselor FIVE of the following concepts:

a. The emotions you feel when you receive money. _____

b. Your understanding of how the amount of money you have with you affects your spending habits. _____

c. Your thoughts when you buy something new _____

and your thoughts about the same item three months later. _____

Explain the concept of buyer's remorse. _____

d. How hunger affects you when shopping for food items (snacks, groceries). _____

e. Your experience of an item you have purchased after seeing or hearing advertisements for it. Did the item work as well as advertised? _____

f. Your understanding of what happens when you put money into a savings account. _____

g. Charitable giving. Explain its purpose _____

and your thoughts about it. _____

h. What you can do to better manage your money. _____

4. Explain the following to your merit badge counselor:

a. The differences between saving _____

including reasons for using one over the other. _____

b. The concepts of return on investment _____

and risk. _____

c. The concepts of simple interest _____

and compound interest _____

and how these affected the results of your investment exercise. _____

5. Select five publicly traded stocks from the business section of the newspaper. Explain to your merit badge counselor the importance of the following information for each stock:

- a. Current price
- b. How much the price changed from the previous day
- c. The 52-week high and the 52-week low prices

Stock	Current Price	1 Day Change	52 wk High	52 wk Low
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

6. Pretend you have \$1,000 to save, invest, and help prepare yourself for the future. Explain to your merit badge counselor the advantages or disadvantages of saving or investing in each of the following:

	Advantages	Disadvantages
a. Common stocks	_____	_____
b. Mutual funds	_____	_____
c. Life insurance	_____	_____
d. A certificate	_____	_____

e. A savings account _____
or U.S. savings bond _____

7. Explain to your merit badge counselor the following:

a. What a loan is, _____

what interest is, _____

and how the annual percentage rate (APR) measures the true cost of a loan. _____

b. The different ways to borrow money. _____

c. The differences between a charge card, _____

debit card, _____

and credit card. _____

What are the costs and pitfalls of using these financial tools? _____

Explain why it is unwise to make only the minimum payment on your credit card. _____

d. Credit reports _____

and how personal responsibility can affect your credit report. _____

e. Ways to reduce or eliminate debt. _____

8. *Demonstrate* to your merit badge counselor your understanding of time management by doing the following:

a. Write a "to do" list of tasks or activities, such as homework assignments, chores, and personal projects, that must be done in the coming week. List these in order of importance to you.

c. Describe your project. _____

d. Develop a list of resources. Identify how these resources will help you achieve your goal.

e. If necessary, develop a budget for your project. _____

10. Do the following:

a. Choose a career you might want to enter after high school or college graduation. _____

b. Research the limitations of your anticipated career _____

and discuss with your merit badge counselor what you have learned about qualifications such as education, skills, and experience. _____

Online Resources *(Use any Internet resource with caution and only with your parent's or guardian's permission.)*

Merit Badge Workbooks: usscouts.org -or- meritbadge.org ► **Merit Badge Books:** www.scoutstuff.org

Boy Scouts of America: <http://www.scouting.org/> ► [Requirements](#) ► [Intro to Merit Badges](#)

[ExpertVillage Computer Video Lessons:](#) 📺 [How to Create a Budget in Excel](#)

📺 [Insurance](#)

📺 [Investing](#)

📺 [Money Managing](#)

📺 [Balancing a Checkbook](#)

Bureau of Labor Statistics: <http://www.bls.gov>

The Motley Fool: <http://www.fool.com>

Consumer Protection FTC: <http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/>

Nat. Assn of Investors: <http://www.better-investing.org>

Guide to Financial Aid: <http://www.finaid.org>

<http://www.students.gov>

<http://www.studentaid.ed.gov>

<http://www.youngbiz.com>