

MERIT BADGE SERIES



GENEALOGY



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

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"Enhancing our youths' competitive edge through merit badges"



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Requirements

1. Explain to your counselor what the words *genealogy*, *ancestor*, and *descendant* mean.
2. Do ONE of the following:
 - a. Create a time line for yourself or for a relative. Then write a short biography based on that time line.
 - b. Keep a journal for six weeks. You must write in it at least once a week.
3. With your parent's help, choose a relative or a family acquaintance you can interview in person, by telephone, or by email or letter. Record the information you collect so you do not forget it.
4. Do the following:
 - a. Name three types of genealogical resources and explain how these resources can help you chart your family tree.
 - b. Obtain at least one genealogical document that supports an event that is or can be recorded on your pedigree chart or family group record. The document could be found at home or at a government office, religious organization, archive, or library.
 - c. Tell how you would evaluate the genealogical information you found for requirement 4b.

5. Contact ONE of the following individuals or institutions. Ask what genealogical services, records, or activities this individual or institution provides, and report the results:
 - a. A genealogical or lineage society
 - b. A professional genealogist (someone who gets paid for doing genealogical research)
 - c. A surname organization, such as your family's organization
 - d. A genealogical educational facility or institution
 - e. A genealogical record repository of any type (courthouse, genealogical library, state or national archive, state library, etc.)
6. Begin your family tree by listing yourself and include at least two additional generations. You may complete this requirement by using the chart provided in this pamphlet or the genealogy software program of your choice.
7. Complete a family group record form, listing yourself and your brothers and sisters as the children. On another family group record form, show one of your parents and his or her brothers and sisters as the children. This requirement may be completed using the chart provided or the genealogy software program of your choice.
8. Do the following:
 - a. Explain the effect computers and the Internet are having on the world of genealogy.
 - b. Explain how photography (including microfilming) has influenced genealogy.
9. Discuss what you have learned about your family and your family members through your genealogical research.

Genealogy Resources

Scouting Literature

Boy Scout Journal; *American Heritage* merit badge pamphlet

Visit the Boy Scouts of America's official retail website at <http://www.scoutstuff.org> for a complete listing of all merit badge pamphlets and other helpful Scouting materials and supplies.

Books

- Brockman, Terra. *A Student's Guide to Italian American Genealogy*. Oryx Press, 1996.
- Burroughs, Tony. *Black Roots: A Beginner's Guide to Tracing the African American Family Tree*. Simon & Schuster, 2001.
- Hendrickson, Nancy. *Finding Your Roots Online*. Betterway Books, 2003.
- Kavasch, E. Barry. *A Student's Guide to Native American Genealogy*. Oryx Press, 1996.
- Kemp, Thomas Jay. *International Vital Records Handbook, 5th ed.* Genealogical Publishing, 2009.
- McKenna, Erin. *A Student's Guide to Irish American Genealogy*. Oryx Press, 1996.
- Paddock, Lisa Olson. *A Student's Guide to Scandinavian American Genealogy*. Oryx Press, 1996.
- Renick, Barbara. *Genealogy 101: How to Trace Your Family's History and Heritage*. Rutledge Hill Press, 2003.
- Robl, Gregory. *A Student's Guide to German American Genealogy*. Oryx Press, 1996.
- Rollyson, Carl Sokolnicki. *A Student's Guide to Polish American Genealogy*. Oryx Press, 1996.
- Ryskamp, George A. *Finding Your Mexican Ancestors: A Beginner's Guide to Mexican American Genealogy*. Ancestry Publishing, 2007.
- Schleifer, Jay. *A Student's Guide to Jewish American Genealogy*. Oryx Press, 1996.
- She, Colleen. *A Student's Guide to Chinese American Genealogy*. Oryx Press, 1996.
- United States National Archives and Records Administration. *Guide to Genealogical Research in the National Archives*. National Archives and Records Administration, 2001.
- Wolfman, Ira. *Climbing Your Family Tree: Online and Offline Genealogy for Kids*. Workman Publishing, 2002.
- Yamaguchi, Yoji. *A Student's Guide to Japanese American Genealogy*. Oryx Press, 1996.

Magazines

Family Chronicle

Toll-free telephone: 888-326-2476

Website:

<http://www.familychronicle.com>

Family Tree Magazine

Toll-free telephone: 855-840-5122

Website: <http://www.familytree>

[magazine.com](http://www.familytree)

Archives and Libraries

National Archives and Records Administration

Toll-free telephone: 866-272-6272

Website: <http://www.archives.gov>

Library of Congress

Local History and Genealogy

Reading Room

Website:

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/genealogy>

The Newberry Library

Website: <http://www.newberry.org/genealogy-and-local-history>

Genealogical Societies

The Family History Library and Family History Centers

Website: <https://www.familysearch.org>

National Genealogical Society

Website: <http://www.ngsgenealogy.org>

New England Historic Genealogical Society

Website: <http://www.nehgs.org>

Genealogy Websites

AfriGeneas

Website: <http://www.afrigeneas.com>

Ancestry.com

Website: <http://www.ancestry.com>

Cyndi's List of Genealogy Sites on the Internet

Website: <http://www.cyndislist.com>

FamilySearch

Website: <https://www.familysearch.org>

Genealogy.com

Website: <http://www.genealogy.com>

The USGenWeb Project

Website: <http://www.usgenweb.com>

The WorldGenWeb Project

Website: <http://www.worldgenweb.org>

Genealogy Software

Family Tree Maker

Website:

<http://www.familytreemaker.com>

Genealogy Pro for Mac OS X

Website: <http://www.macgenealogy.org>

Family Tree Maker® 2008

Website: <http://www.genealogy.com/softmain.html>

Legacy 6.0 Family Tree

Website:

<http://www.legacyfamilytree.com>

Personal Ancestral File

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

Website: <https://www.familysearch.org>

Reunion 9

Website: <http://www.leisterpro.com>