



Public Health

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](#).

Workbook developer: craig@craiglincoln.com. Requirements revised: 2006, Workbook updated: April 2008.

Scout's Name: _____ Unit: _____

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

1. Explain what public health is. _____

Explain how Escherichia coli (E. coli), _____

tetanus, _____

AIDS, _____

encephalitis, _____

salmonellosis, _____

and Lyme disease are contracted. _____

Then, pick any four of the following diseases and explain how each one is contracted:

gonorrhea, _____

Type or form: _____

Possible vectors: _____

Prevention: _____

Treatments: _____

West Nile virus, _____

Type or form: _____

Possible vectors: _____

Prevention: _____

Treatments: _____

botulism, _____

Type or form: _____

Possible vectors: _____

Prevention: _____

Treatments: _____

influenza, _____

Type or form: _____

Possible vectors: _____

Prevention: _____

Treatments: _____

syphilis, _____

Type or form: _____

Possible vectors: _____

Prevention: _____

Treatments: _____

hepatitis, _____

Type or form: _____

Possible vectors: _____

Prevention: _____

Treatments: _____

emphysema, _____

Type or form: _____

Possible vectors: _____

Prevention: _____

Treatments: _____

meningitis, _____

Type or form: _____

Possible vectors: _____

Prevention: _____

Treatments: _____

herpes, _____

Type or form: _____

Possible vectors: _____

Prevention: _____

Treatments: _____

lead poisoning. _____

Type or form: _____

Possible vectors: _____

Prevention: _____

Treatments: _____

For all 10 diseases, explain the type or form of the disease (viral, bacterial, environmental, toxin), any possible vectors for transmission, ways to help prevent the spread of infection, and available treatments.

2. Do the following:

a. Explain the meaning of immunization. _____

b. Name five diseases against which a young child should be immunized . _____

and two diseases against which everyone should be reimmunized periodically. _____

c. Using the diseases you chose for requirement 1, discuss the diseases for which there is currently no treatment or immunization. _____

3. Discuss the importance of safe drinking water in terms of the spread of disease. _____

Then, **demonstrate** two ways for making water safe to drink that can be used while at camp. In your demonstration, explain how dishes and utensils should be washed, dried, and kept sanitary at home and in camp. _____

4. Explain what a vector is _____

and how insects and rodents can be controlled in your home, in your community, and at camp. _____

Tell why this is important. _____

In your discussion, explain which vectors can be easily controlled by individuals _____

and which ones require long-term, collective action. _____

5. With your parent's and counselor's approval, do ONE of the following:

a. Visit a municipal wastewater treatment facility OR a solid-waste management operation in your community. _____

Describe how the facility safely treats and disposes of sewage or solid waste. _____

Describe how sewage and solid waste should be disposed of under wilderness camping conditions. _____

- b. Arrange to meet with the food service manager of a food service facility (such as a restaurant or school cafeteria) and visit this establishment. _____

Observe food preparation, handling, and storage, and learn how the facility keeps foods from becoming contaminated. _____

Find out what conditions allow microorganisms to multiply in food _____

and how conditions can be controlled to help prevent the growth and dissemination of microorganisms. _____

Learn how microorganisms in food can be killed. _____

Discuss what you learned with your counselor. _____

- 6. Do the following:

- a. Describe the health dangers from air, _____

water, _____

and noise pollution. _____

- b. Describe health dangers from tobacco use _____

and alcohol _____

and drug abuse. _____

- 7. With your parent's and counselor's approval, visit your city, county, or state public health agency. _____

Discuss how the agency addresses the concerns raised in requirements 1 through 6 _____

and how the services provided by this agency affect your family. _____

Then do the following:

- a. Compare the four leading causes of mortality (death) in your community for any of the past five years

with the four leading causes of morbidity (incidence of disease) in your community. _____

Explain how the public health agency you visited is trying to reduce the mortality and morbidity rates of these leading causes of illness and death. _____

- b. Explain the role of the health agency you visited related to the outbreak of diseases. _____

- c. Discuss the kinds of public assistance the agency is able to provide in case of disasters such as floods, storms, tornadoes, earthquakes, and other acts of destruction. _____

Your discussion can include the cleanup necessary after a disaster occurs. _____

- 8. Pick a profession in the public health sector that interests you. _____

Find out the education, training, and experience required to work in this profession. _____

Discuss what you learn with your counselor. _____

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

Boy Scouts of America: ► scouting.org ► [Guide to Safe Scouting](#) ► [Age-Appropriate Guidelines](#) ► [Safe Swim Defense](#)
► [Scout](#) ► [Tenderfoot](#) ► [Second Class](#) ► [First Class](#) ► [Rank Videos](#) ► [Safety Afloat](#)

Boy Scout Merit Badge Workbooks: [BSA Troop 780](#) -or- usscouts.org -or- meritbadge.org Merit Badge Books: www.scoutstuff.org

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <http://www.cdc.gov>

Environmental Protection Agency: <http://www.epa.gov>

National Institutes of Health: <http://www.nih.gov>

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: <http://odphp.osophs.dhhs.gov>

Commissioned Corps of the U.S. Public Health Service: <http://www.usphs.gov>

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: <http://www.hhs.gov>

World Health Organization: <http://www.who.int>