



AMERICAN LABOR

Merit Badge Requirements

1) Do ONE of the following:

- A) Develop a time line of significant history of the American labor movement from the 1770's to today.
- B) Prepare an exhibit or a scrapbook illustrating three major achievements of the American labor movement.
- C) In 500 words or more, write about one of the founders of organized labor in the United States.
- D) In 500 words or more, write how the work force fits into the economic system of the United States.

2) Check with some news sources where you live -- public library, federal, state, county, or municipal employment office; labor union office -- for information about working people and their concerns. Discuss your findings with your counselor.

3) Discuss with your counselor how you would lead a discussion on the subject of worker concerns about job-related issues. Issues should be related to the workplace (safety, job assignments, seniority, wages, child care, etc.).

4) With the help of your counselor, prepare an exhibit or scrapbook illustrating ONE of the following:

- A) Issues that concern American workers.
- B) Federal and state labor laws showing how these laws affect American workers.
- C) Current issues you have learned about from a national union or employee group.

5) Visit the office or attend a meeting of a local union, an AFL-CIO labor council, or an independent employee organization. Talk with some people there and find out what the organization does. Draw a diagram of the organizational structure of the association you visited from the local to the national level, if applicable.

6) Be prepared to define and discuss some of the key terms used in labor relations.

7) With help from your counselor, determine some of the basic rights and responsibilities that members of unions, employee organizations, and those not belonging to a collective association have.

8) With help from your counselor, chart a comparison of wages, benefits, and working conditions in a union shop and a nonunion shop in the same industry.

9) Discuss why it is important to maintain good relationships among business, labor, and government. Discuss to your counselor what can happen when these relationships get out of balance.

10) Discuss with your counselor the different goals that may exist with owners of a business, its stockholders, its customers, its employees, the employees' representatives, the community, and public officials. Explain why agreements and compromises are made and how they affect each group in attaining its goals.

Requirement 2

Check with some news sources where you live -- public library, federal, state, county, or municipal employment office; labor union office -- for information about working people and their concerns. Tell about your findings and discuss them with your counselor: _____

Requirement 3

Tell how you would lead a discussion on the subject of worker concerns about job-related issues. Issues should be related to the workplace (safety, job assignments, seniority, wages, child care, etc.): _____

Requirement 4

For this requirement you are asked to prepare an exhibit or a scrapbook. You have been given three topics for your exhibit or scrapbook. Select and complete one of them. When completed, show your project to your counselor.

If you selected *Option A*:

Prepare an exhibit or scrapbook that illustrates issues that concern American workers. Give a brief summary of your project: _____

If you selected *Option B*:

Prepare an exhibit or scrapbook that illustrates Federal and state labor laws showing how these laws affect American Workers. Give a brief summary of your project: _____

Scout Name: _____ Unit #: _____ Date: _____

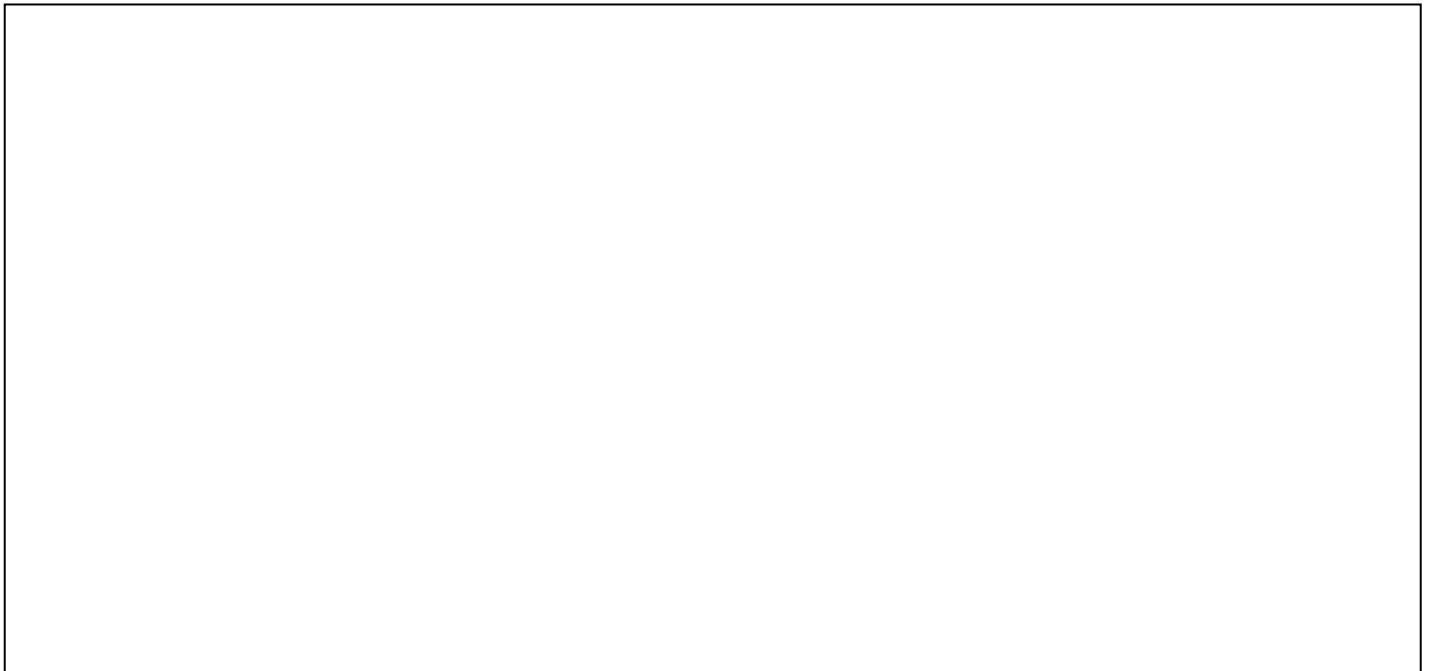
If you selected *Option C*:

Prepare an exhibit or scrapbook that illustrates current issues you have learned about from a national union or employee group. Give a brief summary of your project: _____

Requirement 5

Visit the office or attend a meeting of a local union, an AFL-CIO labor council, or an independent employee organization. Talk with some people there and find out what the organization does. Give a summary of your visit: _____

Draw a diagram of the organizational structure of the association you visited from the local to the national level, if applicable.



Requirement 6

This requirement asks that you be prepared to define and discuss some of the key terms used in labor relations. Use the area below to list some of those key terms and their definition.

| | |
|-------------|-------------------|
| Term: _____ | Definition: _____ |
| Term: _____ | Definition: _____ |
| Term: _____ | Definition: _____ |
| Term: _____ | Definition: _____ |
| Term: _____ | Definition: _____ |
| Term: _____ | Definition: _____ |
| Term: _____ | Definition: _____ |
| Term: _____ | Definition: _____ |

Requirement 7

With help from your counselor, determine some of the basic rights and responsibilities that members of unions, employee organizations, and those not belonging to a collective association have. Use this space to list the rights and responsibilities that you discussed: _____

Requirement 8

With help from your counselor, chart a comparison of wages, benefits, and working conditions in a union shop and a nonunion shop in the same industry. Use this area for your chart:

Requirement 9

Discuss why it is important to maintain good relationships among business, labor, and government: _____

Tell what can happen when these relationships get out of balance: _____

Requirement 10

Discuss the different goals that may exist with owners of a business, its stockholders, its customers, its employees, the employees' representatives, the community, and public officials: _____

Explain why agreements and compromises are made and how they affect each group in attaining its goals: _____
