



# CRIME PREVENTION

## Merit Badge Requirements

- 1) Define "crime" and "crime prevention."
- 2) Prepare a notebook of newspaper and other clippings that addresses crime and crime prevention efforts in your community.
- 3) Do the following:
  - A) Talk to a store owner or manager about the impact of crime on the way the store is run and how crime affects prices.
  - B) Talk with a school teacher, principal, or school officer about the impact of crime in your school.
  - C) Explain what a neighborhood watch is and how it can benefit your neighborhood.
  - D) Define white-collar crime and explain how it affects all citizens of the United States.
- 4) Discuss the following with your counselor:
  - A) The role of a sheriff's department or police department in crime prevention.
  - B) The role of citizens, including youth, in crime prevention.
  - C) Gangs and their impact on the community.
  - D) When and how to report a crime.
  - E) The role and value of laws in society.
- 5) Do the following:
  - A) Inspect your neighborhood for opportunities that may lead to crime. Learn how to do a crime prevention survey.
  - B) Using the checklist in the Crime Prevention Merit Badge pamphlet, conduct a security survey of your home and discuss the results with your family.
- 6) Teach your family or patrol members how to protect themselves from crime at home, at school, in your community, and while traveling.
- 7) Visit a jail or detention facility. Discuss your experience with your counselor.
- 8) Discuss with your counselor the purpose and operation of agencies in your community that help law enforcement personnel prevent crime, and how the agencies help in emergency situations.
- 9) Discuss the following with your counselor:
  - A) How drug abuse awareness programs, such as "Drugs: A Deadly Game" help prevent crime.
  - B) Why alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana are sometimes called "gateway drugs" and how "gateway drugs" can lead to the use of other drugs.
  - C) Three resources in your city where a person with a drug problem or drug-related problem can go for help.
  - D) How the illegal sale and use of drugs lead to other crimes.
  - E) How to recognize child abuse.
  - F) The "three R's" of Youth Protection.

**Requirement 1**

Define "crime": \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Define "crime prevention": \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Requirement 2**

Prepare a notebook of newspaper and other clippings that addresses crime and crime prevention efforts in your community. Give a brief summary of what you included in your notebook: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Show your notebook to your counselor.

**Requirement 3**

Talk to a store owner or manager about the impact of crime on the way the store is run and how crime affects prices. Give a summary of your discussion and what you learned: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Talk with a school teacher, principal, or school officer about the impact of crime in your school. Give a summary of your discussion and what you learned: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What is a neighborhood watch? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How can a neighborhood watch benefit your neighborhood? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What is white-collar crime? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How does white-collar crime affect all citizens of the United States? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Requirement 4

You have been asked to discuss the following questions/topics with your counselor. Use this area to gather information about the topic to help prepare you for your discussion.

What is the role of a sheriff's department or police department in crime prevention? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What is the role of citizens, including youth, in crime prevention? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What impact do gangs have in your community? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Explain when and how to report a crime: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What is the role and value of laws in society? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Requirement 5

Inspect your neighborhood for opportunities that may lead to crime. Give a brief summary of what you did and what you found: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Learn how to do a crime prevention survey. Give a brief summary of the process: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

You have been asked to conduct a security survey of your home and discuss the results with your family. Use the checklist attached to the back of this worksheet (or the same form from the Crime Prevention Merit Badge pamphlet) for your survey. After completing the survey and discussing it with your family, give a brief summary of what you found during your survey and the discussion you had afterward: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Requirement 6**

\_\_\_ Teach your family or patrol members how to protect themselves from crime in different places and situations. Use the area below to take notes and list important items that you will include in your teaching.

How can you protect yourself from crime at home? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How can you protect yourself from crime at school? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How can you protect yourself from crime in your community? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How can you protect yourself from crime while traveling? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Requirement 7**

Visit a jail or detention facility. Discuss your experience with your counselor. Use the area below to take notes and briefly describe your visit.

Place visited: \_\_\_\_\_ Date visited: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Requirement 8**

Discuss with your counselor the purpose and operation of agencies in your community that help law enforcement personnel prevent crime, and how the agencies help in emergency situations. Use the area below to take notes, answering the question, before the discussion with your counselor.

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Requirement 9

Discuss/Explain/Answer the following to help prepare you for the discussion with your counselor.

How do drug abuse awareness programs help prevent crime? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

List one or more of the drug abuse awareness programs in your area? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Why are alcohol, tobacco, and marijuana sometimes called "gateway drugs"? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How can "gateway drugs" lead to the use of other drugs? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

List three resources in your city where a person with a drug problem or drug-related problem can go for help:

Name: _____	Phone Number: _____
Name: _____	Phone Number: _____
Name: _____	Phone Number: _____

How can the illegal sale and use of drugs lead to other crimes? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What are some of the ways you can recognize child abuse? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What are the "three R's" of Youth Protection?  
**R** \_\_\_\_\_ **R** \_\_\_\_\_ **R** \_\_\_\_\_

### Home Security Checklist

1. Do you keep a list of all valuable property? \_\_\_\_\_

Is such a list make in duplicate, with at least one copy kept in a place outside your home? \_\_\_\_\_  
*In case of fire, the list will provide information necessary for insurance claims.*

2. Do you have a list of the serial numbers of your valuable property (watches, cameras, computers, TVs, etc.)? \_\_\_\_\_

**Operation Identification** - Operation Identification (I.D.) is a program of marking personal property with a unique identifying numbers to make identification possible If the items are lost or stolen. This program aids the police in identifying your valuables. People who mark their property have a grater chance of getting it back if it's stolen. Operation I.D. also deters burglars by making it more difficult to sell stolen goods and by increasing burglars' chances of arrest. Numbers can be engraved onto metal objects or marked wit indelible markers on other materials. Contact your local police department to find out more about this program. Many police and sheriff's offices have engraving pens available for you to borrow. Engraving pens can be purchased in hardware stores. Operation I.D. would be a good community service project for your Scout troop.

3. Do you have a description and photograph of valuable property that doesn't have an identifying number? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Do you keep excess cash and other valuables in a bank? \_\_\_\_\_

*Renting a safe deposit box is a small investment compared wit the potential loss from theft or fire. The box should be large enough to hold important papers and valuables that are seldom used.*

5. Do you plan so that you don't need to "hide" a house key under the doormat or in a similar location? \_\_\_\_\_

*It's safer to leave your house key with a close friend or reliable neighbor so that a burglar nosing around won't find it.*

6. Do your family members know what to do if they discover a burglar breaking in or already in your home? \_\_\_\_\_

*If you return to your home and find signs that it has been entered, don't go in. Go to a neighbor's home and phone the police or sheriff. If you enter your home and find a burglar inside, expect him to be frightened and dangerous. A scream may cause him to flee, but it might also provoke him to attack you. Never struggle with a burglar unless you are in danger of serious physical harm and you are forced to defend yourself. In that case, scream, kick, gouge - use your hands, feet, and teeth to try to fight off your attacker.*

7. Do family members know to leave everything undisturbed and call the sheriff or police if they discover that a burglary has been committed? \_\_\_\_\_

*It is important that you not move things or otherwise disturb the inside of your home or the grounds around your home until police have checked it. Valuable evidence might be lost if things are moved or disturbed.*

8. Are trees and shrubs trimmed to eliminate hiding places? \_\_\_\_\_

*Keep doorways, windows, and porches clear when planting bushes and tall flowers. Remember that the bushes that give you privacy also give a burglar places to hide.*

9. Do you have a security closet with a solid-core door, non-removable hinges, and a deadbolt lock? \_\_\_\_\_

*A security closed can be a place to keep things of value. Noises caused by someone breaking into a security closet might betray a burglar.*

10. Do you have emergency telephone numbers listed on your phone? \_\_\_\_\_

*In most areas of the country the 911 phone number will connect you with emergency services. With the 911 system, a computer immediately displays your address to the person who answers your emergency call*

11. Is the outside of your home well lit? \_\_\_\_\_

Does your porch light have at least a sixty-watt bulb? \_\_\_\_\_

*Outside lighting Is important in home security. Light yards, windows, and each doorway to prevent burglars fro hiding in them. Porch lamps and yard post lamps can be used to eliminate dark spots. Burn porch lights from dusk until dawn, and encourage neighbors to do the same. This denies burglars the cover of darkness, at a cost of about five cents per night, using a sixty-watt bulb. In rural areas where no street lights exist, electric companies often will give group discounts to customers who wish to install security lighting. Contac your power company or rural electric cooperative for further information.*

12. Is your house number easily visible from the street at any hour? \_\_\_\_\_

*If it is not possible to read your house number from the street at night without using a flashlight, consider lighting the number or having a visible curb number painted in front of your house.*

**House Numbering Project** - Nothing is more frustrating to a police officer responding to a call for help than to arrive at a location and not be able to find the exact house because no house numbers are visible. Every house number on a street should be uniform in size and location and be visible from the street at night. A good troop project would be a house-numbering service to ensure that all house numbers in your neighborhood are present, uniform, and easily seen.

13. Have you made it more difficult for burglars by locking up ladders and eliminating trellises and drainpipes that can be used as ladders to reach an upper floor of your home? \_\_\_\_\_
14. Are your doors of solid-core construction? \_\_\_\_\_  
*A wide-angle door is fragile. It takes a burglar only a few blows with a hammer to break through to reach the lock. If you have hollow-core doors, consider replacing them with solid doors.*
15. Do your entry doors have wide-angle viewers? \_\_\_\_\_  
*A wide-angle viewer or peephole lets you see who the visitor is before opening the door.*
16. Are your door's locks secure from being opened if a burglar breaks out a pane of glass or a panel of lightweight wood? \_\_\_\_\_  
*This calls for a lock that can be opened only from inside with a key. Some communities don't permit this type of lock because it can prevent escape from a fire if the key isn't in place. If you use this type of lock, be sure to leave the key in the lock when anyone is at home; remove the key only when the home is empty. Check with your local law enforcement agency or building department to find out if this type of lock is permitted.*
17. Do exterior doors have cylinder-type deadbolt locks with at least a one-inch throw and a beveled cylinder guard? \_\_\_\_\_
18. Do doors without cylinder locks have a heavy deadbolt or some similar security device that can be operated only from the inside? \_\_\_\_\_
19. Can all of your doors (basement, porch, sliding, French, balcony) be securely locked? \_\_\_\_\_
20. Do your basement doors have locks that allow you to isolate that part of your home? \_\_\_\_\_  
*Basement windows are among the easiest for a burglar to enter undetected. If your basement is securely locked from the rest of your home, the burglar's activity is limited to that area.*
21. Are all of your locks in good repair? \_\_\_\_\_
22. Are the door strike-plates installed with three-inch screws? \_\_\_\_\_  
*Three-inch screws will reach the stud inside the wall.*
- Installing Security Devices** - Using the contributed services of repair people or maintenance workers in your neighborhood is a great way to help your neighbors install locks, window pins and bars, peepholes, and other security devices. Donated help saves the cost of installation and encourages more citizens to take important security measures. Neighborhood groups might arrange to purchase locks and other security devices in quantity at a discount. Local authorities might install security devices at little cost to residents. Some residents, including senior citizens, persons with disabilities, and burglary victims, might receive services for free. A good community project would be to find out what low-cost or free services are available and inform the residents in your neighborhood.
23. Do you know everyone who has a key to your home? \_\_\_\_\_  
*Don't carry house keys on the same ring as car keys. It's very easy to leave the keys together when the car is in a garage for repairs or left in a commercial parking lot where an attendant parks cars. Anyone who handles your house keys can easily have duplicates made.*
24. Do all out-swinging doors in your home have non-removable pins? \_\_\_\_\_
25. Do sliding doors have a lock that locks both the door panels together or locks the active side to the frame? \_\_\_\_\_  
*You can place a wooden dowel in the floor track to prevent a sliding door from opening.*
26. Is the garage door secured with a padlock, hasp, or other good lock? \_\_\_\_\_  
*Even garage doors with electric openers need separate locks. In a double-car garage with a single long door, it's important to place a lock on each side of the door to keep a burglar from pulling out one side and crawling through.*
27. Do you lock your garage door at night? \_\_\_\_\_
28. Do you make sure your garage door is locked when you're away from home? \_\_\_\_\_
29. Do you lock your car and take out the keys even when it is parked in your garage? \_\_\_\_\_
30. Are all windows in your home equipped with key locks, or pinned? \_\_\_\_\_  
*You can secure a sliding window with a rod the same way as you would secure a sliding glass door.*

- 31. Are your window locks properly and securely mounted? \_\_\_\_\_
- 32. Do you keep your windows locked when they are shut? \_\_\_\_\_
- 33. Do you use locks that let you lock a window that is partly open? \_\_\_\_\_
- 34. Have you replaced or secured louvered windows? \_\_\_\_\_
- 35. If you live in a high-burglary area, do you use window bars or ornamental grilles? \_\_\_\_\_  
*Take care that bars or grilles don't create an escape hazard in the event of a fire. They must have an inside mechanism that allows them to swing out in an emergency.*
- 36. Do you have secure locks on garage windows? \_\_\_\_\_
- 37. Do you cover garage windows with curtains or shades? \_\_\_\_\_
- 38. Are you as careful to secure basement and second-story windows as you are to secure windows on the first floor? \_\_\_\_\_
- 39. Do you use good telephone security procedures? \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone Security:**

- *Never give personal information (name, age, address, etc.) to a stranger on the telephone.*
- *Never let a stranger know that you are home alone.*
- *Never let a stranger on the telephone know when you will or will not be home.*
- *Instruct baby-sitters never to tell anyone who calls that they are home alone with children.*
- *Teach children who are old enough to be left alone never to tell a stranger on the phone that parents are gone. Teach them to say, "My mom can't come to the phone right now. May I take a message?"*

- 40. When planning a trip, do you secure your telephone? \_\_\_\_\_  
*Notify the telephone company approximately two weeks before you leave and arrangements will be made for an operator or a recording to answer your phone each time it rings and state that your phone is temporarily out of order. Or, use call forwarding, if the service is available in your area. Call forwarding can give callers the impression that residents are home when they are away, by transferring incoming calls to another telephone number. Your local phone company can give you further information.*
- 41. When you go on a trip, do you arrange for friends or neighbors to pick up newspapers, mail, packages, and any other deliveries? \_\_\_\_\_  
*Ask friends or neighbors to pick up your papers, mail, and packages every day.*
- 42. Do you arrange to make your home look lived-in while you are away? \_\_\_\_\_  
*Leave some window shades or curtains open so that your home doesn't look deserted. Have someone periodically open and close the drapes and turn different lights on and off (or use timers) so that the house appears occupied. Use a timer to turn a radio on and off. Consider asking friends or relative to live in your home while you are away. Leave a car in the driveway or ask neighbors to park in your driveway. Ask a neighbor to put some trash in your trash cans.*
- 43. Do you notify a neighbor that you'll be gone? \_\_\_\_\_  
*Leave a key with a friend or neighbor; ask that your home be checked every so often.*
- 44. Do you notify you police or sheriff that you'll be gone? \_\_\_\_\_
- 45. Do you store all your valuables in a secure place while you're gone, such as a safe deposit box in a bank? \_\_\_\_\_