



# Dentistry

## Merit Badge Workbook



This workbook can help you but you still need to read the merit badge pamphlet.  
This Workbook can help you organize your thoughts as you prepare to meet with your merit badge counselor

**Merit Badge Counselors may not require the use of this or any similar workbooks.**

You still must satisfy your counselor that you can demonstrate each skill and have learned the information.  
You should use the work space provided for each requirement to keep track of which requirements have been completed, and to make notes for discussing the item with your counselor, not for providing full and complete answers.

If a requirement says that you must take an action using words such as "discuss", "show", "tell", "explain", "demonstrate", "identify", etc, that is what you must do.

No one may add or subtract from the official requirements found on Scouting.org.

The requirements were last issued or revised in 2022 • This workbook was updated in November 2023.

Scout's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit \_\_\_\_\_ Date Started \_\_\_\_\_

Counselor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please submit errors, omissions, comments or suggestions about this **workbook** to: [Workbooks@USScouts.Org](mailto:Workbooks@USScouts.Org)  
Comments or suggestions for changes to the **requirements** for the **merit badge** should be sent to: [Merit.Badge@Scouting.Org](mailto:Merit.Badge@Scouting.Org)

1. Using x-ray (radiographic) films and with your counselor's guidance, study the tooth structure and look for decay. Then do the following:
  - a. Using the radiographs as a guide, draw a lower molar. Label its parts and surfaces. Show surrounding structures such as bone and gum tissues.
  - b. Show on your drawing where the nerves and blood vessels enter and leave the tooth.
  - c. Show on your drawing where bacterial plaque is most likely to be found.

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- 2. Do the following:
  - a. Tell or write about what causes dental decay and gum disease.

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Tell how each of the following contributes to dental decay and gum disease: bacterial plaque, sugars, and acid.

Bacterial plaque:	           
Sugars,	           
Acid:	           

- b. Tell the possible causes for traumatic tooth loss, describe the types of mouth guards used to prevent tooth trauma, and list the athletic activities during which a person should wear a mouth guard.

Causes:


Types of mouth guards:


Athletic activities:


- c. Explain the first-aid procedure for saving a tooth that has been knocked out.


- d. Discuss how the use of tobacco products can negatively affect your oral health


- 3. Arrange for a visit with a dentist. Before you go, ask whether your visit can include a dental examination and a plaque-control demonstration. Afterward, ask questions about things you want to know.


Then tell your counselor what the dentist does in a checkup examination.


4. Do TWO of the following:

a. Name at least five instruments and five pieces of equipment a dentist uses.

	Instruments	Equipment
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

b. With the help of a dentist, prepare a dental stone cast using a vibrator, a mixing bowl, a water measure, a plastic measure, model stone, and a spatula.

c. Keep a record of everything you eat for three days. Circle those items that could provide the sugars that bacterial plaque needs to make acid.

	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3


List snacks that you should avoid to help maintain the best oral health.


5. Discuss with your merit badge counselor the following:
  - a. How fluorides help prevent tooth decay and the ways fluorides can be provided to the teeth.

How fluorides help prevent tooth decay


The ways fluorides can be provided to the teeth


- b. How the mouth is related to the rest of the body. Topics might include chewing, saliva, enzymes, nutrition, and speech.

Chewing:


Saliva:


Enzymes:


Nutrition:


Speech:


6. Do TWO of the following:

- a. Make a model tooth of soap, clay, papier-mâché, or wax. Using a string and a large hand brush, show your troop or a school class proper toothbrushing and flossing procedures.
- b. Make a poster on prevention of dental disease. Show the importance of good oral health.
- c. Collect at least five advertisements for different toothpastes. List the claims that each one makes. Tell about the accuracy of the advertisements.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

- d. Write a feature story for your school newspaper on the proper care of teeth and gums. Include in your story how the use of tobacco products can negatively affect a person's oral health.

- e. Make drawings and write about the progress of dental decay.



Describe the types of dental filling and treatments a dentist can use to repair dental decay problems.

Types of dental filling


Treatments a dentist can use to repair dental decay problems




7. Learn about career opportunities for both Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S.) and auxiliary dental professions.

1.	
2.	
3.	

Pick either general dentistry OR a dental specialty, plus one auxiliary dental profession. Find out about the education, training, and experience required for these two professions.

Dentistry Career:	
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Education:	

Training:	

Experience:	

Auxiliary Career:	
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Education:	

Training:	

Experience:	

Discuss these with your counselor, and explain why these professions interest you.


When working on merit badges, Scouts and Scouters should be aware of some vital information in the current edition of the *Guide to Advancement* (BSA publication 33088). Important excerpts from that publication can be downloaded from <http://usscouts.org/advance/docs/GTA-Excerpts-meritbadges.pdf>.

You can download a complete copy of the *Guide to Advancement* from <http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33088.pdf>.