



# WILDERNESS SURVIVAL

## Merit Badge Requirements

- 1) Show that you know first aid for injuries or illnesses likely to occur in backcountry outings, including hypothermia, heatstroke, heat exhaustion, frostbite, dehydration, sunburn, stings, tick bites, snakebite, and blisters.
- 2) Describe from memory the priorities for survival in a backcountry or wilderness location.
- 3) Describe ways to (a) avoid panic and (b) maintain a high level of morale when lost.
- 4) Tell what you would do to survive in the following environments:
  - A) Cold and Snowy
  - B) Wet (forest)
  - C) Hot and Dry (desert)
  - D) Windy (mountains or plains)
  - E) Water (ocean or lake)
- 5) Make up a personal survival kit and be able to explain how each item in it is useful.
- 6) Show that you can start fires using three methods other than matches.
- 7) Do the following:
  - A) Tell five different ways of attracting attention when lost.
  - B) Show how to use a signal mirror.
  - C) Describe from memory five international ground-to-air signals and tell what they mean.
- 8) Show that you can find and improvise a natural shelter minimizing the damage to the environment.
- 9) Spend a night in your shelter.
- 10) Explain how to protect yourself against insects, reptiles, and bears.
- 11) Show three ways to treat water found in the outdoors to prepare it for drinking.
- 12) Show that you know the proper clothing to be worn in your area on an overnight in extremely hot weather and extremely cold weather.
- 13) Explain why it usually is not wise to eat edible wild plants or wildlife in a wilderness survival situation.

**Requirement 1**

Show that you know first aid for injuries or illnesses likely to occur in backcountry outings. Include the following:

Hypothermia: \_\_\_\_\_

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Hyperthermia: \_\_\_\_\_

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Heatstroke: \_\_\_\_\_

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Heat Exhaustion: \_\_\_\_\_

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Frostbite: \_\_\_\_\_

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Dehydration: \_\_\_\_\_

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Sunburn: \_\_\_\_\_

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Insect Stings: \_\_\_\_\_

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Tick Bites: \_\_\_\_\_

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Snake Bites: \_\_\_\_\_

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Blisters: \_\_\_\_\_

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### Requirement 4

Tell what you would do to survive in the following environments:

Cold & Snowy: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Wet (Forest): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Hot & Dry (Desert): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Windy (Mountains or Plains): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Water (Ocean or Lake): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Requirement 5

Make up a personal survival kit. Be able to explain how *each* item in it is useful. List some of the items below with a description of its usefulness.

Item: \_\_\_\_\_ Use: \_\_\_\_\_

Item: \_\_\_\_\_ Use: \_\_\_\_\_

Item: \_\_\_\_\_ Use: \_\_\_\_\_

Item: \_\_\_\_\_ Use: \_\_\_\_\_

Item: \_\_\_\_\_ Use: \_\_\_\_\_

Item: \_\_\_\_\_ Use: \_\_\_\_\_

Item: \_\_\_\_\_ Use: \_\_\_\_\_

Item: \_\_\_\_\_ Use: \_\_\_\_\_

Item: \_\_\_\_\_ Use: \_\_\_\_\_

**Requirement 6**

Show that you can start fires using three methods other than matches. Describe these methods below:

Method 1: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Method 2: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Method 3: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Requirement 7**

Tell five different ways of attracting attention when lost:

1) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Show your merit badge counselor how to use a signal mirror. Give a brief summary of the process: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
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From memory, you need to describe 5 international ground-to-air signals and tell what they mean. To help you learn, use this area to draw them and list the meaning.

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**Requirement 8**

Show that you can find and improvise a natural shelter minimizing the damage to the environment. If possible, do this while on a campout with your troop, or this can be done in a back yard.

Give a brief summary of how you did this: \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_ Show this shelter to your leader or your merit badge counselor and explain how and why you built it the way you did. \_\_\_\_\_

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**Requirement 9**

Spend a night in your shelter. Briefly explain the weather conditions and your experience in your shelter. \_\_\_\_\_

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**Requirement 10**

How would you protect yourself from:

Insects: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Reptiles: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Bears: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Requirement 11**

List 3 effective ways that you can treat water found in the outdoors to prepare it for drinking. Demonstrate them to your counselor.

1) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

2) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Requirement 12**

List the *proper* clothing you would take and wear during an overnight campout in your area. List clothing for both conditions

Extremely Hot Weather

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Extremely Cold Weather

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