

MERIT BADGE SERIES



THEATER



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

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"Enhancing our youths' competitive edge through merit badges"



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Requirements

1. See or read three full-length plays or scripts. These can be from the stage, movies, television, or video. Write a review of each. Comment on the story, acting, and staging.
2. Write a one-act play that will take at least eight minutes to perform. The play must have a main character, conflict, and a climax.
3. Do THREE of the following:
 - a. Act a major part in a full-length play; or, act a part in three one-act plays.
 - b. Direct a play. Cast, rehearse, and stage it. The play must be at least 10 minutes long.
 - c. Design the set for a play or a production of a circus. Make a model of it.
 - d. Design the costumes for five characters in one play set in a time before 1900.
 - e. Show skill in stage makeup. Make up yourself or a friend as an old man, a clown, an extraterrestrial, or a monster as directed.
 - f. Help with the building of scenery for one full-length play or two one-act plays.
 - g. Design the lighting for a play; or, under guidance, handle the lighting for a play.

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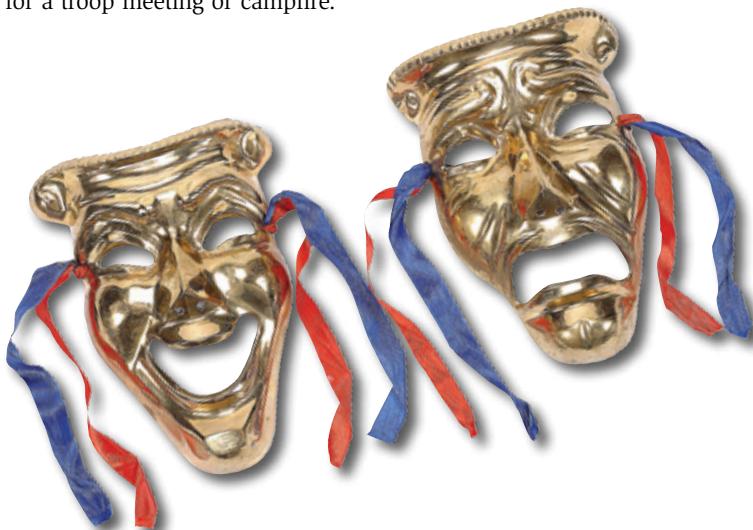
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4. Mime or pantomime any ONE of the following, chosen by your counselor.
 - a. You have come into a large room. It is full of pictures, furniture, and other things of interest.
 - b. As you are getting on a bus, your books fall into a puddle. By the time you pick them up, the bus has driven off.
 - c. You have failed a school test. You are talking with your teacher, who does not buy your story.
 - d. You are at camp with a new Scout. You try to help him pass a cooking test. He learns very slowly.
 - e. You are at a banquet. The meat is good. You don't like the vegetable. The dessert is ice cream.
 - f. You are a circus performer such as a juggler, high-wire artist, or lion tamer doing a routine.
5. Explain the following: proscenium arch, central or arena staging, spotlight, floodlight, flies, center stage, stage right, stage left, stage brace, stage crew, cyclorama, portal, sound board.
6. Do two short entertainment features that you could present either alone or with others for a troop meeting or campfire.



Theater Resources

Scouting Literature

Art, Cinematography, Communications, Journalism, Model Design and Building, Painting, and Reading merit badge pamphlets.

Visit the Boy Scouts of America's official retail website at <http://www.scoutstuff.org> for a complete listing of all merit badge pamphlets and other helpful Scouting materials and supplies.

Books

- Aitken, Maria. *Style: Acting in High Comedy*. Applause, 1996.
- Bloom, Michael. *Thinking Like a Director: A Practical Handbook*. Faber & Faber, 2001.
- Brown, John Russell, ed. *The Oxford Illustrated History of Theatre*. Oxford Press, 2001.
- Bruder, Melissa. *A Practical Handbook for the Actor*. Vintage Books, 1986.
- Campbell, Drew. *Technical Theater for Nontechnical People*. Allworth Press, 1999.
- Carter, Paul. *The Backstage Handbook: An Illustrated Almanac of Technical Information*, 3rd ed. Broadway Press, 1994.

- Catron, Louis E. *The Elements of Playwriting*. Waveland Press, 2001.
- Clurman, Harold. *On Directing*. Touchstone Books, 1997.
- Cohen, Edward M. *Working on a New Play*. Limelight Editions, 1995.
- Corson, Richard. *Stage Makeup*, 9th ed. Pearson Allyn & Bacon, 2000.
- Covey, Liz, and Rosemary Ingham. *The Costume Designer's Handbook*, 2nd ed. Heinemann, 1992.
- Fraser, Neil. *Stage Lighting Explained*. Crowood Press, 2002.
- Gillette, J. Michael. *Theatrical Design and Production: An Introduction to Scene Design and Construction, Lighting, Sound, Costume, and Makeup*. McGraw-Hill, 1999.
- Kipnis, Claude. *The Mime Book*. Meriwether Publishing, 1990.
- Korty, Carol. *Writing Your Own Plays: Creating, Adapting, Improvising*. Players Press, 2000.
- Novelly, Maria C. *Theatre Games for Young Performers: Improvisations and Exercises for Developing Acting Skills*. Meriwether Publishing, 1985.
- Pecktal, Lynn. *Designing and Drawing for the Theatre*. McGraw-Hill, 1994.

THEATER RESOURCES

Pennington, Lee. *The Actor's Edge*.
Marble Falls Press, 1996.

Peterson, Lenka; Dan O'Connor, and
Robert Coles. *Kids Take the Stage: Helping Young People Discover the Creative Outlet of Theater*. Back Stage Books, 1997.

Smith, Ronn, and Ming Cho Lee.
American Set Design Two. Theatre Communications Group, 1991.

Swinfield, Rosemarie. *Stage Makeup Step-By-Step*. Betterway Publications, 1995.

Walters, Graham. *Stage Lighting Step-by-Step: The Complete Guide on Setting the Stage With Light to Get Dramatic Results*. Writer's Digest Books, 1997.

Yager, Fred, and Jan Yager. *Career Opportunities in the Film Industry*. Facts on File, 2003.

Periodicals

Plays

P.O. Box 600160
Newton, MA 02460
Telephone: 617-630-9100
Toll-free telephone: 800-630-5755
Website:
<http://www.playsmagazine.com>

Organizations and Websites

American Association of Community Theatre

1300 Gendy St.
Fort Worth, TX 76107
Telephone: 866-687-2228
Website: <http://www.aact.org>

CreativeFuture

Website: <http://creativefuture.org>

Educational Theatre Association

2343 Auburn Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45219-2815
Telephone: 513-421-3900
Website: <http://www.edta.org>

Masterpiece Theatre

Website: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/masterpiece/about-masterpiece/>

Metropolitan Museum of Art

Costume Institute
1000 Fifth Ave. at 82nd Street
New York, NY 10028-0198
Telephone: 212-535-7710
Website: <http://www.metmuseum.org>

Museum of the City of New York

The Costume Collection
1220 Fifth Ave.
New York, NY 10029
Telephone: 212-534-1672
Website: <http://www.mcny.org/content/collections-descriptions>

TheatreHistory.com

Website: <http://www.theatrehistory.com>