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Please submit errors, omissions, comments or suggestions about this **workbook** to: [**Workbooks@USScouts.Org**](mailto:Workbooks@usscouts.org?subject=Merit%20Badge%20Workbooks)

Send comments or suggestions for changes to the **requirements** for the **Nova Award** to: [**Program.Content@Scouting.Org**](mailto:program.content@scouting.org@scouting.org)

**This module is designed to help you explore how engineering   
and simple machines called levers affect your life each day**

1. Choose A *or* B or C and complete ALL the requirements.

⬜ A. Watch an episode or episodes (about one hour total) of a show about anything related to motion or machines.

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| What was watched? | Date | Start Time | Duration |
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Then do the following:

Some examples include—but are not limited to—shows found on PBS ("NOVA"), Discovery Channel, Science Channel, National Geographic Channel, TED Talks (online videos), and the History Channel. You may choose to watch a live performance or movie at a planetarium or science museum instead of watching a media production. You may watch online productions with your counselor's approval and under your parent's supervision.

1. Make a list of at least two questions or ideas from what you watched.

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2. Discuss two of the questions or ideas with your counselor.

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⬜ B. Read (about one hour total) about anything related to motion or machines.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| What was read? | Date | Start Time | Duration |
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Then do the following:

Books on many topics may be found at your local library. Examples of magazines include but are not limited to *Odyssey, KIDS DISCOVER, National Geographic Kids, Highlights,* and *OWL* or [owlkids.com](http://owlkids.com/).

1. Make a list of at least two questions or ideas from what you read.

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2. Discuss two of the questions or ideas with your counselor.

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⬜ C Do a combination of reading and watching (about one hour total) about anything related to motion or machines.

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| What was watched or read? | Date | Start Time | | Duration | |
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Then do the following:

1. Make a list of at least two questions or ideas from what you read and watched.

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2. Discuss two of the questions or ideas with your counselor.

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2. Complete ONE belt loop or pin from the following list. (Choose one that you have not already earned.)

⬜ Badminton ⬜ Mathematics

⬜ Baseball ⬜ Softball

⬜ BB-gun Shooting ⬜ Table Tennis

⬜ Fishing ⬜ Tennis

⬜ Golf ⬜ Ultimate

⬜ Hockey

3. Levers

A. Make a list or drawing of the three types of levers. (A lever is one kind of simple machine.)

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| 1. |  |
| 2. |  |
| 3. |  |

B. Be able to tell your counselor

1. The class of each lever

2. How each lever works

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|  | Class | How it works |
| 1. |  |  |
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C. With your counselor, discuss:

1. The type of lever that is involved with the motion for the belt loop or pin you chose for requirement 2

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2. What you learned about levers and motion from earning your belt loop or pin

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3. Why we use levers

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4. Do the following:

A. Visit a place that uses levers, such as a playground, carpentry shop, construction site, restaurant kitchen, or any other location that uses levers.

Visitations to places like carpentry shops, construction sites, restaurant kitchens, etc. will require advance planning by the counselor. The counselor should call ahead to make arrangements and make plans to have appropriate supervision of all Scouts.

The site will very likely have rules and instructions that must be followed. The counselor should help ensure that all the participants are aware of and follow those rules. This may include safety procedures and other instructions.

Place visited:

B. Discuss with your counselor the equipment or tools that use levers in the place you visited.

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5. Do EACH of the following:

A. On your own, design, including a drawing, sketch, or model, ONE of the following:

1. A playground fixture that uses a lever

2. A game or sport that uses a lever

3. An invention that uses a lever

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B. Discuss with your counselor how the lever in your design will move something.

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6. Discuss with your counselor how levers affect your everyday life.

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**Important excerpts from the** [***‘Guide To Advancement’***](http://www.scouting.org/filestore/pdf/33088.pdf)**, No. 33088:**

Effective January 1, 2012, the *‘Guide to Advancement’* (which replaced the publication *‘Advancement Committee Policies and Procedures’*) is now the *official* Boy Scouts of America source on advancement policies and procedures.

* **[ Inside front cover, and 5.0.1.4 ] — Unauthorized Changes to Advancement Program**

***No council, committee, district, unit, or individual has the authority to add to, or subtract from, advancement requirements.*** (There are limited exceptions relating only to youth members with disabilities. For details see section 10, “Advancement for Members With Special Needs”.)

* **[ Inside front cover, and 7.0.1.1 ] — The** [***‘Guide to Safe Scouting’***](http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/HealthandSafety/GSS/toc.aspx) **Applies**

Policies and procedures outlined in the *‘Guide to Safe Scouting’,* No. 34416, apply to all BSA activities, including those related to advancement and Eagle Scout service projects. [Note: Always reference the online version, which is updated quarterly.]

* **[ 7.0.3.1 ] — The Buddy System and Certifying Completion**

Youth members must not meet one-on-one with adults. Sessions with counselors must take place where others can view the interaction, or the Scout must have a buddy: a friend, parent, guardian, brother, sister, or other relative —or better yet, another Scout working on the same badge— along with him attending the session. When the Scout meets with the counselor, he should bring any required projects. If these cannot be transported, he should present evidence, such as photographs or adult certification. His unit leader, for example, might state that a satisfactory bridge or tower has been built for the Pioneering merit badge, or that meals were prepared for Cooking. If there are questions that requirements were met, a counselor may confirm with adults involved. Once satisfied, the counselor signs the blue card using the date upon which the Scout completed the requirements, or in the case of partials, initials the individual requirements passed.

* **[ 7.0.3.2 ] — Group Instruction**

It is acceptable—and sometimes desirable—for merit badges to be taught in group settings. This often occurs at camp and merit badge midways or similar events. Interactive group discussions can support learning. The method can also be attractive to “guest experts” assisting registered and approved counselors. Slide shows, skits, demonstrations, panels, and various other techniques can also be employed, but as any teacher can attest, not everyone will learn all the material.

There must be attention to each individual’s projects and his fulfillment of *all* requirements. We must know that every Scout —actually and *personally*— completed them. If, for example, a requirement uses words like “show,” “demonstrate,” or “discuss,” then every Scout must do that. It is unacceptable to award badges on the basis of sitting in classrooms *watching* demonstrations, or remaining silent during discussions. Because of the importance of individual attention in the merit badge plan, group instruction should be limited to those scenarios where the benefits are compelling.