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

Comments or suggestions for changes to the **requirements** for the **award** should be sent to: [Advancement.Team@Scouting.Org](mailto:Advancement.Team@Scouting.Org)

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⬜ a. Learn about caving

⬜ i. Write the National Speleological Society (NSS) to request information about caving and information about caves and cavers near you.

⬜ ii. Learn about the different types of caves

⬜ iii. Learn about caving courtesy, caving do's and don'ts, and what the BSA policy is on cave exploring.

⬜ iv. Read at least one book about caving.

⬜ b. Knots

⬜ i. Learn the following knots used in caving:

Endline knots:

⬜ bowline,

⬜ figure eight,

⬜ figure eight on a bight

Midline knots:

⬜ bowline on a bight

⬜ butterfly

Joiner knots:

⬜ water knot,

⬜ fisherman,

⬜ figure eight on bend

Ascending knots:

⬜ Prusik knot

⬜ ii. Teach these knots to your crew, another crew, a Cub Scout or Boy Scout unit, or another group.

⬜ c. Ropes

⬜ i. Learn about the different types of ropes available for climbing and caving and explain the uses of each and the characteristics of each.

⬜ ii. Learn proper climbing rope care. Know and practice proper coding and storage.

⬜ iii. now how to keep proper records on climbing rope and how to inspect it for wear and damage. Know when to retire a rope.

⬜ iv. Using the knowledge acquired above, make a tabletop display or a presentation for your crew, another crew, a Cub Scout or Boy Scout unit, or another group.

⬜ d. Rappelling and belaying

⬜ i. Demonstrate that you know how to properly and safely rappel a distance of at least 30 feet.

⬜ ii. Demonstrate that you know how to ascend a rope using mechanical ascenders or Prusik or other ascending knots. Ascend at least 30 feet.

⬜ iii. Know and explain the differences, advantages, and disadvantages of single rope (SRT) and double rope (DRT) for rappelling and belaying,.

⬜ iv. Learn how to properly pack and carry a backpacking stove and fuel.

⬜ e. Outfitting

⬜ i. Visit a sporting goods store or NSS-affiliated organization or have them make a presentation to your crew so you can learn about personal caving gear, including helmets, light sources, backup lighting sources, clothing, boots, cave packs, etc.

⬜ ii. Find out what the American National Standards Institute requirements are for helmets.

⬜ f. First aid

⬜ i. Make a list of what you need in your personal cave pack. Include your personal first aid kit and cave survival gear.

⬜ ii. Learn what crew equipment is, including a first aid kit, caving ropes, and ascending equipment.

⬜ iii. Help make a first aid kit for your crew or group and demonstrate that you can keep it up.

⬜ iv. Demonstrate to your crew, another crew, a Cub Scout or Boy Scout unit, or another group how to construct both a personal and crew first aid kit.

⬜ g. Caves

⬜ i. Learn about the many types of cave formations.

⬜ ii. Make a tabletop display or presentation on cave formations and caving conservation for your crew, another crew, a Cub Scout or Boy Scout unit, or another group. Include practices such as proper carbide removal; care of walls, ceiling, and formations; and principles of Leave No Trace.

⬜ h. Find a cave you would like to visit; get permission to enter it; make a trip plan including cave location, a list of participants, expected time in the cave, expected date and time of return, and an emergency contact; and then go in the cave, led by a qualified caver

⬜ i. From a cave expert, learn about natural and fabricated hazards such as mudslides, loose rocks, pits, deep water, critters, complex routes, wooden ladders, and flooding.

⬜ j. Maps

⬜ i. Using a three-dimensional cave map, learn what the standard map symbols represent.

⬜ ii. Using the knowledge above, make a tabletop display or presentation for your crew, another crew, a Cub Scout or Boy Scout unit, or another group.

**Important excerpts from the Guide To Advancement - 2015, No. 33088 (SKU-620573)**

**[1.0.0.0] — Introduction**

The current edition of the *Guide to Advancement* is the official source for administering advancement in all Boy Scouts of America programs: Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, Varsity Scouting, Venturing, and Sea Scouts. It replaces any previous BSA advancement manuals and previous editions of the *Guide to Advancement*.

**[Page 2, and 5.0.1.4] — Policy on 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 special needs. For details see section 10, “Advancement for Members With Special Needs”.

**[Page 2] — 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.