

# MERIT BADGE SERIES



# GENEALOGY



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*"Enhancing our youths' competitive edge through merit badges"*



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# Requirements

Always check [www.scouting.org](http://www.scouting.org) for the latest requirements.

1. Do EACH of the following:
  - a. Explain to your counselor what the words *genealogy*, *ancestor* and *descendant* mean.
  - b. Explain what a family tree is and what information would be kept there.
  - c. Explain what a family group record is and what information would be kept there.
2. Do ONE of the following:
  - a. Create a time line for yourself or for a relative. Then write a short biography based on that time line.
  - b. Keep a journal for six weeks. You must write in it at least once a week.
3. With your parent's help, choose a relative or a family acquaintance you can interview in person, by telephone, or by email or letter. Record the information you collect so you do not forget it.
4. Do EACH of the following:
  - a. Name three types of physical genealogical resources, where you can find them, and explain how these resources can help you chart your family tree.
  - b. Name three types of digital genealogical resources, where you can find them, and how these resources can help you chart your family tree.
  - c. Obtain at least one genealogical document that supports an event that is or can be recorded on your pedigree chart or family group record.

- d. Tell how you found it and how you would evaluate the genealogical information you found for requirement 4c.
  - e. Tell a likely place to find these type of genealogical records: marriage record, census record, birth record, and burial information.
5. Contact ONE of the following individuals or institutions. Ask what genealogical services, records, or activities this individual or institution provides, and report the results:
    - a. A genealogical or lineage society
    - b. A professional genealogist (someone who gets paid for doing genealogical research)
    - c. A surname organization, such as your family's organization
    - d. A genealogical educational facility or institution
    - e. A genealogical record repository of any type (courthouse, genealogical library, state or national archive, state library, etc.)
  6. Begin your family tree by listing yourself and include at least two additional generations. You may complete this requirement by using the chart provided in this pamphlet or the genealogy software program of your choice.
  7. Complete a family group record form, listing yourself and your brothers and sisters as the children. On another family group record form, show one of your parents and his or her brothers and sisters as the children. This requirement may be completed using the chart provided or the genealogy software program of your choice.
  8. Do the following:
    - a. Explain the effect computers and the internet are having on the world of genealogy.
    - b. Explain how photography has influenced genealogy.
    - c. Explain how record indexing works and how that has influenced genealogy.
  9. Discuss what you have learned about your family and your family members through your genealogical research.

# Genealogy Resources

## Scouting Literature

*American Heritage* merit badge pamphlet

With your parent's permission, visit the Boy Scouts of America's official retail website, [www.scoutshop.org](http://www.scoutshop.org), for a complete listing of all merit badge pamphlets and other helpful Scouting materials and supplies.

## Books

- Beidler, James M., *The Family Tree German Genealogy Guide: How to Trace Your Germanic Ancestry in Europe*. Family Tree Books, 2014.
- Bettinger, Blaine T. *The Family Tree Guide to DNA Testing and Genetic Genealogy*. Family Tree Books, 2019.
- Burroughs, Tony. *Black Roots: A Beginner's Guide to Tracing the African American Family Tree*. Simon & Schuster, 2001.
- Combs-Bennett, Shannon. *Genealogy Basics In 30 Minutes: The quick guide to creating a family tree, building connections with relatives, and discovering the stories of your ancestors*. I30 Media Corporation, 2021.
- Fryxell, David A., *The Family Tree Scandinavian Genealogy Guide: How to Trace Your Family Tree in Denmark, Sweden and Norway*. Family Tree Books, 2019.
- Garza, Moises. *Mexican Genealogy Research Online: A Guide to Help You Discover Your Ancestry*. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2014.
- Hendrickson, Nancy. *Finding Your Roots Online*. Betterway Books, 2003.
- Holtz, Melanie, *The Family Tree Italian Genealogy Guide: How to Trace Your Family Tree in Italy*. Family Tree Books, 2017.
- Kavasch, E. Barry. *A Student's Guide to Native American Genealogy*. Oryx Press, 1996.
- Kemp, Thomas Jay. *International Vital Records Handbook, 7th ed.* Genealogical Publishing, 2017
- Mills, Elizabeth Shown. *Evidence Explained: Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace*. Genealogical Publishing Company, 2009.
- Renick, Barbara. *Genealogy 101: How to Trace Your Family's History and Heritage*. Rutledge Hill Press, 2003.

Schleifer, Jay. *A Student's Guide to Jewish American Genealogy*. Oryx Press, 1996.

She, Colleen. *A Student's Guide to Chinese American Genealogy*. Oryx Press, 1996.

Yamaguchi, Yoji. *A Student's Guide to Japanese American Genealogy*. Oryx Press, 1996.

## Genealogical Websites and Organizations

### AfriGeneas

[www.afrigeneas.com](http://www.afrigeneas.com)

### American Ancestors

[www.americanancestors.org](http://www.americanancestors.org)

### Ancestry

[www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)

### Cyndi's List

[www.cyndislist.com](http://www.cyndislist.com)

### FamilyPedia

[familypedia.wikia.org](http://familypedia.wikia.org)

### FamilySearch

[www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)

### Genealogy.com

[www.genealogy.com](http://www.genealogy.com)

### The Library of Congress

[www.loc.gov/rr/genealogy](http://www.loc.gov/rr/genealogy)

### National Archives

[www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov)

### National Genealogical Society

[www.ngsgenealogy.org](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org)

### The Newberry

[newberry.org/genealogy-and-local-history](http://newberry.org/genealogy-and-local-history)

### Puzzilla

[www.puzzilla.org](http://www.puzzilla.org)

### Relative Finder

[www.relativefinder.org](http://www.relativefinder.org)

### SBIE Genealogy Group

[www.facebook.com/groups/519662364758373](http://www.facebook.com/groups/519662364758373)

### USGenWeb Project

[www.usgenweb.org](http://www.usgenweb.org)

### WorldGenWeb Project

[www.worldgenweb.org](http://www.worldgenweb.org)

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