

2010 HISTORICAL MERIT BADGE PROGRAM



Pathfinding

First offered in 1911—discontinued in 1952

**WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT WHERE YOU LIVE?
COULD YOU GIVE DIRECTIONS TO SOMEONE VISITING YOUR TOWN?
IMAGINE YOUR TOWN IN 1910.
HOW IS IT DIFFERENT TODAY?**



Requirements

To obtain a merit badge for Pathfinding, a Scout must:

1. In the country, know every lane, bypath, and short cut for a distance of at least two miles in every direction around the local scout headquarters; or in a city, have a general knowledge of the district within a three-mile radius of the local scout headquarters, so as to be able to guide people at any time, by day or by night.

2. Know the population of the five principal neighboring towns, their general direction from his scout headquarters, and be able to give strangers correct directions how to reach them.

These are the original requirements written in 1911. Think about how times have changed as you complete the requirements a Scout your age would have done a hundred years ago.

Imagine your town in 1910. The automobile didn't come into popular use until 1915, so how would you get around? Boys at that time mostly walked from place to place. Although a three-mile radius does not seem much by today's standards, in 1910 walking that far would probably have taken most of the day.

Roadways and walkways were far different from what we have come to expect today. In doing this merit badge today, you may define scout headquarters as the location where your troop meets.

Find out how many people lived in your town in 1910. Our Constitution requires that a census be taken every 10 years to determine how many people live in every town and city in the country. How much has your town grown (or shrunk) over the past 100 years? You can find census records at:

<http://www.census.gov/popest/cities/SUB-EST2008-4.html>



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Requirements (cont.)

3. If in the country, know in a two mile radius, the approximate number of horses, cattle, sheep, and pigs owned on the five neighboring farms; or, in a town, know, in a half-mile radius, the location of livery stables, garages and blacksmith shops.



4. Know the location of the nearest meat markets, bakeries, groceries, and drug stores.

A hundred years ago, many people still used horses and wagons for transportation. It was very common to see livestock in your daily life. When people came into town from the country, they needed to know the location of the stable. Back then, the blacksmith in many ways served the purpose of today's tire store.



Cars were not that common in 1910. Knowing where to get fuel and repairs were a big deal a hundred years ago. The first production car in the United States was a 3-horsepower, curved-dash Oldsmobile. In the first year of production 425 cars were sold. By 1904, production increased to only 5,000 cars. Did you know that Henry Ford did not start his famous assembly line until 1913?



A hundred years ago, people got their food from local farms. Instead of big grocery stores, you would either go directly to the farmer or a farmers' market. In larger cities, these markets often became specialized; you could get produce in one part of town and fish in another.

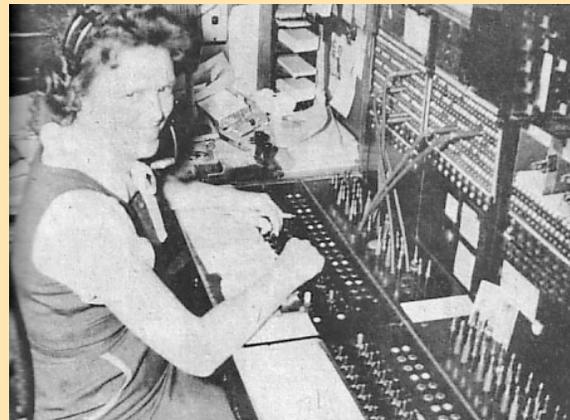
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Requirements (cont.)

5. Know the location of the the nearest police station, hospital, doctor, fire alarm, fire hydrant, telegraph and telephone offices, and railroad stations.

The telephone switchboard was invented in 1876, but even by 1910 not every community had phone service. As a result, when you needed a fireman, you had to go to the firehouse or to a street corner that had a fire alarm. All phones where connected with wires and usually required the assistance of an operator. The 911 system didn't come about until 1968.



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Requirements (cont.)

6. Know something of the history of his place; and know the location of its principal public buildings, such as the town or city hall, post-office, schools and churches.



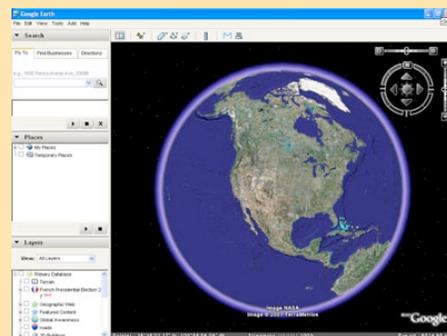
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Who founded your town? Why was it founded? Why is it where it is? Can you imagine a Scout searching for that information one hundred years ago? Back then, your town may have been founded only a couple of years before. It might not have existed one hundred years ago. What will Scouts think about your town a hundred years from now?



7. Submit a map not necessarily drawn by himself upon which he personally has indicated as much as possible of the above information.

Long before computers, maps in 1910 were drawn by hand. Satellites didn't exist, so men would walk all over the country literally measuring distances and then marking this information by hand on maps of their own creation. A scaled map was very important to get from one place to another. Today, you can use Google Earth and see a photo of your backyard.



THIS HISTORICAL MERIT BADGE WILL ONLY BE AVAILABLE DURING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR OF SCOUTING. THE PATHFINDING MERIT BADGE COUNTS TOWARD RANK ADVANCEMENT. REQUIREMENTS MUST BE COMPLETED BY DEC. 31, 2010.

