



PUBLIC HEALTH

Merit Badge Requirements

- 1) Visit your city, county, or state public health agency. Prepare an outline of the agency's various services and:
 - A) Explain them briefly to your counselor.
 - B) Explain how these services affect you.
 - C) Identify the four leading causes of death (mortality) in your community for any of the past five years. Compare these with the four leading causes of hospital admissions (morbidity) in your community. Find out how the public health agency you visited is involved in trying to reduce both the mortality and morbidity of these leading causes of illness and disability.

- 2) Explain how the following diseases are contracted: tetanus, influenza, syphilis, hepatitis, emphysema, AIDS, encephalitis, meningitis, salmonellosis, Lime disease, herpes, and lead poisoning.

- 3) Do the following:
 - A) Explain the meaning of *immunization*.
 - B) Name five diseases against which a young child should be immunized.
 - C) Name two diseases against which you should be reimmunized periodically.

- 4) Visit a restaurant or other commercial food service facility and observe food preparation, handling, and storage. Interview a food service inspector and explain:
 - A) How foods can become contaminated.
 - B) What conditions allow microorganisms to increase in number in food.
 - C) How microorganisms in food can be killed.
 - D) How dishes and utensils should be washed in camp and at home.

- 5) Do the following:
 - A) Show two ways of making water safe to drink under camping conditions.
 - B) Visit a water treatment facility and describe the steps used in making public drinking water safe; OR visit the drinking-water quality-control agency in your community. Describe how water quality is monitored.

- 6) Do the following:
 - A) Explain how insects and rodents can be controlled in your home, community, and camp.
 - B) Visit a municipal wastewater treatment facility and a solid-waste management operation in your community. Describe how sewage and solid waste disposal is done safely in urban and rural environments, and under wilderness camping conditions.

- 7) Do the following:
 - A) Describe the health dangers from air, water, and noise pollution.
 - B) Describe health dangers from tobacco use and alcohol and drug abuse.

Requirement 1

Visit your city, county, or state public health agency.

Agency Visited: _____

Date Visited: _____

Use the following space to prepare an outline of the agency's various services: _____

___ After preparing you outline, explain them briefly to your counselor.

Explain how the services of this agency affect you: _____

Identify the four leading causes of death in your community for any of the past five years:

_____, _____, _____, _____

Identify the four leading causes of hospital admissions in your community:

_____, _____, _____, _____

How do the four leading causes of death compare with the four leading causes of hospital admissions in your community? _____

How is the public health agency you visited trying to reduce both the mortality and morbidity of the leading causes of illness and disability? _____

Describe three professions of the people providing these services at the agency:

Profession: _____ Job Description: _____

Profession: _____ Job Description: _____

Profession: _____ Job Description: _____

Requirement 2

Explain how the following diseases are contracted:

Tetanus: _____

Influenza: _____

Syphilis: _____

Hepatitis: _____

Emphysema: _____

AIDS: _____

Encephalitis: _____

Meningitis: _____

Salmonellosis: _____

Lyme Disease: _____

Herpes: _____

Lead Poisoning: _____

EXTRA MILE - This is not required to earn the merit badge.

You have just explained how certain diseases are contracted. Many times we hear of other ways these diseases are contracted and these are FALSE. There are a lot of stories and myths about diseases. For each of the diseases above, can you list or describe some of the myths about contracting that disease?

Tetanus: _____

Influenza: _____

Syphilis: _____

Hepatitis: _____

Emphysema: _____

AIDS: _____

Encephalitis: _____

Meningitis: _____

Salmonellosis: _____

Lyme Disease: _____

Herpes: _____

Lead Poisoning: _____

Requirement 3

Explain the meaning of *immunization*: _____

Name 5 diseases against which a young child should be immunized

Name two diseases against which you should be reimmunized periodically:

Requirement 4

Visit a restaurant or other commercial food service facility and observe food preparation, handling, and storage.

Facility Visited: _____ Date Visited: _____

After your observations have been made, interview a food service inspector. During your interview ask the following and record your answers:

How can foods be contaminated? _____

What conditions allow microorganisms to increase in number in food? _____

How can microorganisms in food be killed? _____

How should dishes and utensils be washed in camp and at home? _____

Requirement 5

Describe two ways of making water safe to drink under camping conditions:

Method 1: _____

Method 2: _____

___ Demonstrate these water purification methods to your counselor.

Requirement 7

Describe the health dangers from air: _____

Describe the health dangers from water: _____

Describe the health dangers from noise pollution: _____

Describe health dangers from tobacco use: _____

Describe health dangers from alcohol and drug abuse: _____

