



# PUBLIC HEALTH

## Merit Badge Requirements

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Troop No.: \_\_\_\_\_

- 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, Lyme 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Explain how the services of this agency affect you: \_\_\_\_\_

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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? \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Profession: \_\_\_\_\_ Job Description: \_\_\_\_\_

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Profession: \_\_\_\_\_ Job Description: \_\_\_\_\_

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***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.

For the next requirement you have an option:

Visit a water treatment facility and describe the steps used in making public drinking water safe: \_\_\_\_\_

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**OR**

Visit the drinking-water quality-control agency in your community & describe how water quality is monitored: \_\_\_\_\_

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## **Requirement 6**

Explain how insects can be controlled in your home: \_\_\_\_\_

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Explain how insects can be controlled in your community: \_\_\_\_\_

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Explain how insects can be controlled in your camp: \_\_\_\_\_

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Visit a municipal wastewater treatment facility and a solid-waste management operation in your community.

Explain how sewage and solid waste disposal is done safely in urban and rural environments: \_\_\_\_\_

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Explain how sewage and solid waste disposal is done safely under wilderness camping conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Requirement 7

Describe the health dangers from air: \_\_\_\_\_

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Describe the health dangers from water: \_\_\_\_\_

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Describe the health dangers from noise pollution: \_\_\_\_\_

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Describe health dangers from tobacco use: \_\_\_\_\_

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Describe health dangers from alcohol and drug abuse: \_\_\_\_\_

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