

COMMUNICATIONS

Prepared by:

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Target group:

- 2nd year campers and older

Time allotted:

- Two one-hour blocks

Pre-requisites:

- Req. 5, 7, 8

Materials recommended for Scout to bring:

- Notebook paper & pen (daily)

Materials needed for Staff:

- List of Communications merit badge requirements (for reference each day).
- (Creative Tools, such as:) Magazines, newspapers, scissors, glue-sticks, tape, markers, crayons, colored pencils, pens, pencils, stapler, multiple dictionaries, construction paper, other types of paper (for Req. 2a – Monday)
- Pens/paper
- Handouts of different types of Speeches (for Req. 3 – Wednesday)
- Speech topics (for Req. 3 – Wednesday)
- Prepared list of jobs in Communications field, including major responsibilities, qualifications, education, and preparation required (for Req. 9 – Friday)

Note: The following is only a teaching outline. The instructor should teach the material as he sees best fit. The Eagle Area Director must approve any changes to the outline of this badge and all other Eagle Area merit badges.

MONDAY

Requirement 2

Do ONE of the following:

- (a) Think of a creative way to describe yourself, using, for example, a collage, short story or autobiography, drawing or series of photographs, or a song or skit. Using the aid you created, make a presentation to your counselor about yourself.
- (b) Choose a concept, product, or service in which you have great confidence. Build a sales plan based on its good points. Try to persuade your councilor to agree with, use, or buy your concept, product or service. After your sales talk, discuss with your councilor how persuasive you were.

Staff Instruction:

Scouts have several options including:

Creating a "Name Analyzer" using first & last names. Ex:

J (jovial)

O (obscure)

H (happy)

N (nebulous)

Making a collage (cutting & pasting from newspapers, magazines, etc.)

Drawing a picture story (tell life story through pictures)

(Once done, have scouts present to the class.)

TUESDAY

Requirement 1

Do ONE of the following: (While only one option is required it is good to do more)

(c) In a small-group setting, meet with other scouts or with friends. Have them share personal stories about significant events in their lives that affected them in some way. Take note of how each scout participates in the group discussion and how effectively he communicates his story. Report what you have learned to your counselor about the differences you observed in effective communication.

Staff Instruction:

(Split Scouts up into even groups (try to separate Scouts from the same troop) and suggest that scouts tell their stories from a chronological standpoint.)

(Provide Scouts brief time to take notes on each group member's ability to effectively tell their story. Ask what went well and what did not.)

(Have each group recap to the class some of the material they discussed. Each group should at least present to the class what they found to be effective and ineffective methods for communication.)

(As Scouts communicate, walk around and listen, paying attention to how group members listen, etc.)

(d) List as many ways as you can think of to communicate with others (face-to-face, by telephone, letter, e-mail, text messages, and so on). For each type of communication discuss with your counselor an instance when that method might not be appropriate or effective.

Staff Instruction:

(Keep Scouts in same groups and hand out a piece of paper and a pen to each group if they do not already have it. Have each group select a note taker and explain the requirement. Have the groups begin writing down the different ways to communicate. Once finished, ask for any volunteers to share some examples.)

WEDNESDAY

Requirement 3

Write a five-minute speech. Give it at a meeting of a group.

Staff Instruction:

(Explain requirement and provide handouts of different types of speeches. Provide topics for speeches and time for writing. Once finished, have each Scout present their Speech.)

Requirement 4

Interview someone you know fairly well, like, or respect because of his or her position, talent, career or life experiences. Listen actively to learn as much as you can about the person. Then prepare and deliver to your counselor an introduction of the person as though this person were to be a guest speaker, and include reasons why the audience would want to hear this person speak. Show how you would call to invite this person to speak.

Staff Instruction:

(Have the Scouts select someone to interview. Make sure the person is in camp. Next, have the Scouts develop a list of questions to ask the person they intend to interview. Each scout should have at least 8-10 questions. Instruct the Scout that they are to complete their interview before class on Thursday.)

(After Scouts are done developing questions, ask the scouts how they would call the person they are wanting to interview, in a situation where they were asking the person to serve as a guest speaker for them. What information would they give the person, what would they want the other person to tell them?)

Requirement 6

With your counselor's approval, develop a plan to teach a skill or inform someone about something. Prepare teaching aids for your plan. Carry out your plan. With your counselor, determine whether the person has learned what you intended.

Staff Instruction:

(Inform the Scouts to brainstorm and acquire any needed materials they will need for this requirement before coming to class on Thursday and that they will have time on Thursday to develop their plan. Encourage them to select a simple skill.)

THURSDAY

Requirement 6

Re-explain requirement.

Staff Instruction:

(Give the Scouts time to develop a plan to teach their skill or to inform someone of something. Help the Scouts to prepare teaching aids (this could be as simple as verbal cues). Have the Scouts teach the skill to a partner. Review the skills taught with their partner to determine effective teaching.)

Requirement 7

Do ONE of the following:

(a) Write to the editor of a magazine or your local newspaper to express your opinion or share information on any subject you choose. Send your message by fax, email or regular mail.

Staff Instruction:

(Help the Scouts with the development of their letter, helping them to select a topic and develop a few main points to get across. Have them take their letters to mail when they get home.)

NOTE: This activity does **NOT** fully fulfill the requirement. Scouts **MUST** actually send their letters when they get home to finish the requirement.

FRIDAY

Requirement 9

Find out about three career opportunities in the field of communication. Pick one and find out the education, training, and experience required for this profession. Discuss this with your counselor, and explain why this profession might interest you.

Staff Instruction:

(Have Scouts work individually or in groups. Pass around paper, pens, and career info to appropriate groups. Have them find out about the major responsibilities of the career, as well as the qualifications, education, and preparation required. Have each individual or group present their findings to the class.)

Requirement 8

Plan a troop or crew court of honor, campfire program, or an interfaith worship service. Have the patrol leaders' council approve it, then write the script and prepare the program. Serve as master of ceremonies.

Staff Instruction:

(Provide Scouts time (if there is enough time left) to begin brainstorming for this Requirement so that they may return home and complete it shortly after.)

NOTE: Again this activity does not complete the requirement but sets the scouts ready to finish upon returning home.