



# TRAFFIC SAFETY

MERIT BADGE FOR SCOUTS BSA

## MERIT BADGE TRACKING



**The tracking tool below is simply for your own tracking of completion of requirements.**

Scouts are encouraged to find a local merit badge counselor to meet, discuss, and sign off on completion of the merit badge, however the HomeScouting Adventure Club will offer limited counseling sessions for Scouts needing a counselor.

Requirement	Completed?
1a. Describe the top 10 mistakes new drivers frequently make. Name the two items you are required by law to carry with you whenever you operate a motor vehicle.	
1b. Describe how alcohol and other drugs affect the human body and why a person should never drink and drive, or drive while under the influence of any mind-altering substances including prescription drugs, cold medications, and illicit drugs. For the state where you live, find out what is the legal blood alcohol concentration and the consequences for driving while intoxicated or driving under the influence. Find out what the open-container law is in your state.	
1c. Explain why new drivers are at a significantly higher risk of being involved in a collision than other drivers and name three (3) steps you can take that will reduce this risk.	
1d. Explain why a driver who is fatigued or distracted should not operate a motor vehicle. List five common distractions, explain how driver distractions contribute to traffic accidents, and tell how drivers can minimize distractions. Describe how volunteer drivers can plan to be alert when transporting Scouting participants.	
2. Do the following: <input type="checkbox"/> a. Demonstrate how to wear a lap and shoulder belt properly. Explain why it is important for the driver and all passengers always to wear their seat belts. <input type="checkbox"/> b. List five safety features found in motor vehicles besides occupant restraint systems. Describe each safety feature, how each works, and how each contributes to safety.	
3. Do the following: <input type="checkbox"/> a. Using a vehicle that you have access to, demonstrate that all marker lights, parking lights, brake lights, turn signals, and headlights are clear and operational. Explain when you would use these lights, where the switches are to operate these lights and how these lights contribute to safe and courteous driving. <input type="checkbox"/> b. Using a vehicle that you have access to, demonstrate how to check the vehicle's tire pressure and where to locate the correct tire pressure rating. Explain why proper tire pressure is important to the safe operation and fuel economy of the vehicle. <input type="checkbox"/> c. Explain why proper tire tread depth is important to safe driving. On the same vehicle you checked the tire pressure on, demonstrate a method to check for adequate tire tread depth. <input type="checkbox"/> d. Explain issues that might affect the driver's ability to see through the front, rear, and side windows. Demonstrate with a smear-and-clear test if the windshield wiper blades will clear the windshield completely or need to be replaced. Describe instances in good and bad weather when windshield wipers are important to safe driving.	

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Requirement	Completed?
<p>4. Do the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> a. In a location away from traffic hazards, measure with a tape measure—not in a car—and mark off with stakes the distance that a car will travel during the time needed for decision and reaction, and the braking distances necessary to stop a car traveling 30, 50, and 70 miles per hour on dry, level pavement. Discuss how environmental factors such as bad weather and road conditions will affect the distance.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> b. As a driver, describe the difference in nighttime visibility between a properly lit bicycle and rider (or a pedestrian) wearing reflective material and a bicycle and rider with no lights (or a pedestrian) dressed in dark clothing, without reflective material.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> c. Explain how color and shape are used to help road users recognize and understand the information presented on traffic and roadway signs. Explain the purpose of different types of signs, signals, and pavement markings.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> d. Describe at least three examples of traffic laws that apply to drivers of motor vehicles and that bicyclists must also obey.</li></ul>	
<p>5. Do <b>ONE</b> of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="checkbox"/> a. Interview a traffic law enforcement officer in your community to identify what three traffic safety problems the officer is most concerned about. Discuss possible ways to solve one of those problems.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> b. Write a personal traffic safety pledge, addressing three (3) of your most concerning issues relating to traffic safety. Show your pledge to your merit badge counselor and discuss your commitment to traffic safety.</li><li><input type="checkbox"/> c. Initiate and organize an activity or event to demonstrate the importance of traffic safety.</li></ul>	



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Through exploring The Trail inside the ClubHouse for the HomeScouting Adventure Club, complete this worksheet to demonstrate your knowledge of traffic safety. This worksheet will not be turned in and for your own use to demonstrate knowledge.

**Describe the top 10 mistakes new drivers frequently make.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_  
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8. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# TRAFFIC SAFETY MERIT BADGE WORKSHEET

Name the two items you are required by law to carry with you whenever you operate a motor vehicle.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

Describe how alcohol and other drugs affect the human body and why a person should never drink and drive, or drive while under the influence of any mind-altering substances, including prescription drugs, cold medications, and illicit drugs.

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For the state where you live, find out what is the legal blood alcohol concentration and the consequences for driving while intoxicated or driving under the influence.

Legal Blood Alcohol Concentration = \_\_\_\_\_

What are the consequences for driving while intoxicated or driving under the influence?

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Is there an open container law in your state? Describe it below.

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# TRAFFIC SAFETY MERIT BADGE WORKSHEET

**Explain why new drivers are at a significantly higher risk of being involved in a collision than other drivers.**

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**What are 3 steps you can take that will reduce this risk?**

1. 

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2. 

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3. 

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**Why should a driver who is fatigued or distracted not operate a motor vehicle?**

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**List five common distractions, explain how driver distractions contribute to traffic accidents, and tell how drivers can minimize distractions.**

**Distraction #1:** 

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How it contributes to accidents: 

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How to minimize distractions: 

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# TRAFFIC SAFETY MERIT BADGE WORKSHEET

**Distraction #2:** \_\_\_\_\_

How it contributes to accidents: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How to minimize distractions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Distraction #3:** \_\_\_\_\_

How it contributes to accidents: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How to minimize distractions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Distraction #4:** \_\_\_\_\_

How it contributes to accidents: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How to minimize distractions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Distraction #5:** \_\_\_\_\_

How it contributes to accidents: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How to minimize distractions: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Describe how volunteer drivers can plan to be alert when transporting Scouting participants.**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# TRAFFIC SAFETY MERIT BADGE WORKSHEET

**Demonstrate to someone how to wear a lap and shoulder belt properly.**

**Why is it important for the driver and all passengers always to wear their safety belts?**

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**List five safety features found in motor vehicles besides occupant restraint systems Describe each feature, how each works, and how each contributes to safety.**

**Feature #1:** \_\_\_\_\_

How it works: \_\_\_\_\_

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How it contributes to safety: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Feature #2:** \_\_\_\_\_

How it works: \_\_\_\_\_

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How it contributes to safety: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Feature #3:** \_\_\_\_\_

How it works: \_\_\_\_\_

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How it contributes to safety: \_\_\_\_\_

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# TRAFFIC SAFETY MERIT BADGE WORKSHEET

**Feature #4:** \_\_\_\_\_

How it works: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How it contributes to safety: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Feature #5:** \_\_\_\_\_

How it works: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How it contributes to safety: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ **Using a vehicle that you have access to, demonstrate that all marker lights, parking lights, brake lights, turn signals, and headlights are clear and operational.**

**Explain when you would use these lights, where the switches are to operate these lights and how these lights contribute to safe and courteous driving.**

## **Marker Lights**

Function: \_\_\_\_\_

Importance: \_\_\_\_\_

Switch Location: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Parking Lights**

Function: \_\_\_\_\_

Importance: \_\_\_\_\_

Switch Location: \_\_\_\_\_



# TRAFFIC SAFETY MERIT BADGE WORKSHEET

## Brake Lights

Function: \_\_\_\_\_

Importance: \_\_\_\_\_

Switch Location: \_\_\_\_\_

## Turn Signals

Function: \_\_\_\_\_

Importance: \_\_\_\_\_

Switch Location: \_\_\_\_\_

## Headlights

Function: \_\_\_\_\_

Importance: \_\_\_\_\_

Switch Location: \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Using a vehicle that you have access to, demonstrate how to check the vehicle's tire pressure and where to locate the correct tire pressure rating.

Explain why proper tire pressure is important to the safe operation and fuel economy of the vehicle.

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Explain why proper tread depth is important to safe driving.

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- ☐ On the same vehicle you checked the tire pressure on, demonstrate a method to check for adequate tire tread depth.

# TRAFFIC SAFETY MERIT BADGE WORKSHEET

**Explain issues that might affect the driver's ability to see through the front, rear, and side windows.**

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- ☐ **Demonstrate with a smear-and-clear test if the windshield wiper blades will clear the windshield completely or need to be replaced.**

**Describe instances in good and bad weather when windshield wipers are important to safe driving.**

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**In a location away from traffic hazards, measure with a tape measure - not in a car - and mark off with stakes the distance that a car will travel during the time needed for decision and reaction, and the braking distances necessary to stop a car traveling 30, 50, and 70 miles per hour on dry, level pavement.**

Date Completed: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe how environmental factors such as bad weather and road conditions will affect the distance.**

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# TRAFFIC SAFETY MERIT BADGE WORKSHEET

As a driver, describe the difference in nighttime visibility between a properly lit bicycle and rider (or a pedestrian) wearing reflective material and a bicycle and rider with no lights (or a pedestrian) dressed in dark clothing, without reflective material.

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Explain how color and shape are used to help road users recognize and understand the information presented on traffic and roadway signs.

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Explain the purpose of different types of signs, signals, and pavement markings. Pick two different signals, two different signs, and two different pavement markings to explain below.

Signal #1: \_\_\_\_\_

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Signal #2: \_\_\_\_\_

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Sign #1: \_\_\_\_\_

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Sign #2: \_\_\_\_\_

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Pavement Marking #1: \_\_\_\_\_

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Pavement Marking #2: \_\_\_\_\_

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# TRAFFIC SAFETY MERIT BADGE WORKSHEET

**Describe at least three examples of traffic laws that apply to drivers of motor vehicles and that bicyclists must also obey.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

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3. \_\_\_\_\_

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**Do ONE of the following:**

- ☐ a. Interview a traffic law enforcement officer in your community to identify what three traffic safety problems the officer is most concerned about. Discuss possible ways to solve one of those problems.
- ☐ b. Write a personal traffic safety pledge, addressing three (3) of your most concerning issues relating to traffic safety. Show your pledge to your merit badge counselor and discuss your commitment to traffic safety.
- ☐ c. Initiate and organize an activity or event to demonstrate the importance of traffic safety.

**Use the space below to take notes.**

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.