



Dentistry

Merit Badge Workbook

This workbook is not required but is designed to help you with this merit badge. No one can add or subtract from the Boy Scout Requirements #33215. Use page backs & add pages as needed. Please send comments to: craig@craiglincoln.com. Requirements revised: 2007, Workbook updated: January 2007.

Scout's Name: _____ Unit: _____

Counselor's Name: _____ Counselor's Ph #: _____

1) Using x-ray (radiographic) films and with your counselor's guidance, study the tooth structure and look for decay. Then do the following:

- a) Using the radiographs as a guide, draw a lower molar. Label its parts and surfaces. Show surrounding structures such as bone and gum tissues.
- b) Show on your drawing where the nerves and blood vessels enter the tooth.
- c) Show on your drawing where bacterial plaque is most likely to be found.

2) Do the following:

a) Tell or write about what causes dental decay and gum disease. _____

Tell how each of the following contributes to dental decay and gum disease: bacterial plaque, _____

sugars, _____

and acid. _____

b) Tell the possible causes for traumatic tooth loss, _____

describe the types of mouth guards used to prevent tooth trauma, _____

and list the athletic activities during which a person should wear a mouth guard. _____

c) Explain the first-aid procedure for saving a tooth that has been knocked out. _____

3) Arrange for a visit with a dentist. Before you go, ask whether your visit can include a dental examination and a plaque-control demonstration. Afterward, ask questions about things you want to know. _____

Then tell your counselor what the dentist does in a checkup examination. _____

4) Do TWO of the following:

a) Name at least five instruments _____

and five pieces of equipment a dentist uses. _____

b) With the help of a dentist, prepare a dental stone cast using a vibrator, a mixing bowl, a water measure, a plastic measure, model stone, and a spatula.

c) Keep a record of everything you eat for three days. Circle those items that could provide the sugars that bacterial plaque needs to make acid.

List snacks that you should avoid to help maintain the best oral health.

5) Discuss with your merit badge counselor the following:

a) How fluorides help prevent tooth decay _____

and the ways fluorides can be provided to the teeth. _____

b) How the mouth is related to the rest of the body. Topics might include chewing, _____

saliva, _____

enzymes, _____

nutrition, _____

and speech. _____

6) Do TWO of the following:

a) Make a model tooth of soap, clay, papier-mâché, or wax. Using a string and a large hand brush, show your troop or a school class proper toothbrushing and flossing procedures. (*Per National, "troop" means "unit".*)

b) Make a poster on prevention of dental disease. Show the importance of good oral health.

c) Collect at least five advertisements for different toothpastes. (*Hint: Attach the ads. Also, you can use printouts from the manufacturer's website advertisement.*) List the claims that each one makes. Tell about the accuracy of the advertisements.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

d) Write a feature story for your school newspaper on the proper care of teeth and gums. (*Hint: You can attach your story .*)

e) Make drawings

and write about the progress of dental decay. _____

Describe the types of dental filling and treatments a dentist can use to repair dental decay problems. _____

7) Find out about three career opportunities in dentistry. _____

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. _____
