

BLUE BORDERED MERIT REQUIREMENTS

ASTRONOMY

1. Define Astronomy and name two important astronomers.
2. Explain the major differences between the following: planets, moons, stars, comets, asteroids, meteoroids, solar systems and galaxies.
3. Learn the names of the planets in order and one interesting fact about each of the planets in our solar system. Draw a chart or make a display showing the differences in size and distance from the sun.
4. Explain what is meant by a “light-year”. Give the distance in light-years to the nearest star and estimated distance to the farthest galaxy.
5. Explain the difference between an asterism and a constellation.
6. Do ONE of the following:
 - a. Find a total of at least 5 asterisms and/or constellations in the sky
 - b. Visit a planetarium or observatory.
7. Explain why the stars seem to twinkle and why the North Star is important in finding directions in the northern hemisphere.
8. Draw a sketch of the moon’s position in the sky on three different nights during a one-week period and on one of those nights sketch its position once an hour for three hours. Answer these questions:
 - a. Did you observe a change in the moon’s position from night to night and hour to hour?
 - b. What direction does the moon travel?
 - c. What causes the moon to have different shapes called phases?
 - d. What causes the moon to “move” in the sky during the night?
9. Do ONE of the following:
 - a. With a small telescope or binoculars, study the moon, stars and planets on three different nights. Keep notes to compare what you observe each night when identifying each object.
 - b. With the aid of an astronomy book, star chart or website, make drawings of the northern and southern skies as they look for the current season of the year with at least 5 major constellations placed in their proper positions.
10. Give three scripture references regarding the stars, moon, planets, sun, constellations, etc.

FISHING

1. Write a 100-word essay on the subject of fishing. Write at least one sentence about any five of the following: Hand fishing, spear/harpoon fishing, ice fishing, night fishing, a hand line, using a cane/willow pole, bait casting, spin casting, fly fishing, salt water fishing, bank fishing, trolling, casting net.
2. Identify and name at least 10 species of fish in your area that may be legally kept or are species that are catch/release only.

3. Learn what your state conservation department is doing to improve fishing in your area. Write a 50-word essay on your findings or obtain a brochure or article describing their efforts.
4. Learn how to bait a hook and secure at least two kinds (minnows, worms, crayfish, grasshoppers, crickets, clams, frogs).
5. List at least 3 varieties of artificial bait (lures) and secure at least two kinds (plugs, jigs, spoons, flies.)
6. Learn how to tie at least two knots, one designed to join two lines and one designed to secure a hook or lure to a line. The recommended knots are: two lines – tucked sheet bend or the blood (barrel) knot, line to hook – bait hook knot or clincher knot.
7. Define at least ten of the following terms used by fisherman: gorge, swivel, harpoon, barb, treble hook, bobber (float), sinker, leader, landing net, jugging, trot line, stringer, tackle, angling, catch/release.
8. Learn the feeding habits and locations of at least two species of fish in your area. Learn how weather affects their feeding habits. Write a 25-word essay on your findings for each fish or obtain a brochure or article that satisfies these requirements.
9. List at least 3 things that can be done to a fish after it has been caught.
10. List at least 2 safety rules that are always practiced while fishing. Explain how the “Golden Rule” should be practiced during a fishing outing.
11. Choose and name at least 5 parts of the equipment for cane or spin cast. Provide a drawing or picture of your work.
12. In a closely mowed, grassy area, unobstructed for a diameter of 80 feet, practice presenting the bait with the equipment chosen, (cane pole or spin casting rod and reel). Use a hook-less bait and a target of a hula hoop or wading pool, rope in a circle, etc. Learn to cast consistently into the target varying from 15 to 40 feet.
13. Catch at least two fish of different species, identify them, demonstrate how to prepare one for cooking and how to release one unharmed.

HOBBY

Choose one hobby from each of the following 4 categories and 2 additional hobbies, your choice, from the list or ones approved by your commander. You may not reuse a project that is part of another merit.

1. **COLLECTIONS:** collect at least 10 items, properly display and label them. Find out the name and phone number for a collector’s store or group in your area, or a website, where you can find out more about your chosen collection.
 - a. Stamps
 - b. Coins
 - c. Sport cards
 - d. Toys (Match Box cars, Beanie Babies, etc.)
 - e. Rocks and Minerals
 - f. Insects

2. MODEL MAKING: make at least one model from scratch or a kit (unless specified) and properly display it. Learn about the original item your model is copied from, where and when it was made, what it was used for, etc.
 - a. Car or truck
 - b. Military vehicle
 - c. Airplane or helicopter
 - d. Railroad
 - e. Building
 - f. Kite (must be made from scratch)
 - g. Rocket
3. CRAFT: make at least one useable item. List the tools, materials and safety rules needed.
 - a. Wood
 - b. Metal
 - c. Leather (use leather tooling)
 - d. String or rope
 - e. Weaving
 - f. Beadwork
4. FINE ARTS: make at least one item (unless otherwise noted). List the materials and tools needed for your hobby.
 - a. Painting
 - b. Sketching
 - c. Origami
 - d. Pottery
 - e. Sculpting
 - f. Music-Play an instrument or sing in a recital or performance. The performance may be at a school, church, community or Royal Ranger activity.
 - g. Photography-Choose an object or landscape setting, take and have developed at least 12 pictures from different angles and in different lights. Compare and find out what combination worked best. Describe what picture you think is the best photographically. Why?
 - h. Reading-Read at least three different types of books. Make a list of titles and authors and a one page summary of the contents from each book.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

1. List at least 7 of the different jobs available in Law Enforcement, such as: Patrol Officer, Canine Officer, Crime Investigator, Dare Officer, School Resource Officer, Tactical Officer, Drug Enforcement Officer, Border Patrol Officer, Narcotics Investigator, Park Ranger, Conservation Agent. Include the major responsibility of each job in your list.
2. List the names, addresses and phone numbers, both emergency and non-emergency, for the nearest city, county, conservation or park, state and national law enforcement agencies.
3. Pick two of the agencies listed in #2 and either tour their facility, interview an officer from those facilities or gather information about and write up the answers to these questions:
 - a. What geographical area do they have authority over?

- b. How many officers and other employees do they have?
 - c. In what ways are the two jobs alike and in what ways are they different?
4. Interview a law enforcement officer. Ask these questions and write a brief report:
 - a. Why did they choose law enforcement as a career?
 - b. What type of schooling did they need to have?
 - c. What was the most dangerous situation they have experienced?
 - d. What was the most rewarding situation they have experienced?
 - e. What are the most important qualities to have in being a law enforcement officer?
 - f. What special equipment do they need in order to do their job?
5. Have an officer show you ONE of the following:
 - a. A patrol car, its unique features and specialized equipment
 - b. A law enforcement helicopter, its unique features and specialized equipment
 - c. A DWI unit, its unique features and specialized equipment
 - d. A police dog or horse and the specialized equipment that is needed for the dog or horse
 - e. A tactical response unit and its unique features and specialized equipment
 - f. A patrol motorcycle or mountain bike and its unique features and specialized equipment
6. In your Bible find where a serious crime was committed. Tell who committed this crime, how it was solved and what was the consequence, judgement, discipline or punishment received.
7. Read Romans 13:1-5 and explain its meaning. What does this mean for you and how you are to live your life?

MUSIC

1. On at least three different occasions sing as a soloist or a member of a group (such as a quartet or choir); or play a musical instrument as a soloist or member of a group (such as a band or orchestra).
2. Name each note on a scale and show where it should appear on the staff.
3. Draw the following music symbols and explain what each one means:
 - a. Treble Clef
 - b. Bass Clef
 - c. D.C. al Fine
 - d. Crescendo
 - e. Decrescendo
 - f. Fermata
 - g. Sharp
 - h. Flat
 - i. Natural
4. Explain what level of volume is represented by the following terms, and draw their symbols:
 - a. Forte
 - b. Mezzo forte
 - c. Mezzo piano

- d. Piano
5. Find an example of the each of the following types of notes in your church hymnal:
 - a. Whole-note
 - b. Half note
 - c. Quarter note
 - d. Eighth note
 - e. Sixteenth note
 - f. Dotted note (of any kind)
 6. Identify 10 musical instruments by sound.
 7. Demonstrate the appropriate way to direct an orchestra using appropriate conducting patterns.
 8. Find three scripture references regarding singing or musical instruments.

PIONEER LORE

1. Read a book on the history of the early settlers in your area (city, county, state).
2. Write a 200-word report on the life (life style, homes, clothing, etc.) of the early settlers in your area.
3. List at least two American Indian tribe(s) that once lived in your state.
4. List the major nationalities and/or ethnic groups that were represented by the early settlers in your area. Were there any unique reasons why they settled in your area?
5. Choose two of the following trails. Complete the requirements listed below choices:
 - a. Oregon Trail
 - b. Wilderness Road
 - c. Santa Fe Trail

Write a report and answer the following questions:

- i Show major river crossings and locate at least two landmarks.
 - ii Locate the areas occupied by various American Indian tribes along the trail.
 - iii Record the years when the trail was most heavily used by pioneers.
 - iv Discuss what time of year travel needed to begin the journey and why.
 - v On a map, trace the trail.
 - vi What year was the trail blazed?
 - vii What were some of the dangers that existed along the trail?
 - viii Compare the length of time it takes to travel today with how long it took in covered wagons in 1840, for the Oregon and Santa Fe Trails, or on foot, for the Wilderness Road. Determine time based upon 15 miles per day for the pioneer and 60 miles per hour for today's traveler.
6. Write a 100-word report explaining the means of finding your way through a wilderness area. Choose one of the trails above when discussing this question.
 7. How did the pioneers provide for food and water for a long journey?
 8. What were the three main types of wagons used by pioneers? What type was best for long trails like the Oregon Trail?
 9. Visit a historical museum or a pioneer history website. Write a 250-word report on what you saw or found. Include pictures or a brochure from museum.

PRESIDENTS

1. List the Presidents of the United States in the order they served. Include the dates they served, the length of their term, their political party, and the name of their Vice President(s).
2. List at least two major events that occurred during each president's term.
3. List the presidents who died in office including the cause of death.
4. List each president's highest attained level of education and the state of birth.
5. Obtain a picture or drawing of each president.
6. List 10 Scriptures that describe the qualities of a good leader.
7. Write a 300-word essay about your favorite president, giving the reasons for your choice. Explain how your choice of a president exemplified at least 3 qualities listed in requirement #6.

READING

1. Visit your local library and sign up for a library card. Learn how to use the computer or card catalog files to locate materials or books on the library shelves. List the three major ways books and information may be found using a computer or card catalog.
2. Read 6 books in the next 6 months (other than school-related texts): 1 book related to Royal Rangers camp crafts, 1 biography, 1 fiction, 1 arts or science, 1 religious and 1 of your choice. These books can be ones that you have checked out of your local library using your library card.
3. Write a brief 50-word review of each book that you have read in requirement 2. Also explain why you selected each book, what it has meant to you and whether or not you enjoyed the book.
4. Keep a scrapbook of current events for 2 months. Use materials from magazines, newspapers, newsletters, etc. Focus on just ONE or TWO topics such as politics, sports, science, crime, local issues, etc.
5. List several ways to develop good reading habits.

SENIOR CITIZEN

1. With your commander's help, adopt a Senior Citizen in your church as a grandmother or grandfather. Or adopt both a grandmother and a grandfather
2. Learn about your adopted grandmother's and grandfather's birthdays, anniversaries, etc., and present them with some special remembrance on these occasions. An alternate presentation could be for a special holiday such as Easter, Grandparents Day, Thanksgiving or Christmas.
3. Invite your adopted grandmother and grandfather to attend a special outpost activity and recognize each of them at that event.

4. List six (6) Scripture verses that tell of God's feelings towards our Senior Citizens.
5. List five (5) things around the church that may cause hindrances or difficulties for Senior Citizens.
6. List ten (10) things that Senior Citizens do at your church.
7. Select one on the following options for a special time with your adopted grandmother and grandfather:
 - a. Arrange a special banquet
 - b. Arrange a dessert fellowship
 - c. Arrange a special coffee/tea time during an outpost meeting
 - d. Arrange a popcorn and oldies movie night.
8. Write a 100-word report about how the adopted grandmother and grandfather have affected your life.

WILDLIFE

1. What is meant by wildlife conservation?
2. Describe two problems that affect your state's wildlife.
3. Make a list of wildlife species in your state that are classified as endangered or threatened.
4. On a field trip to observe wildlife, keep a written record that includes the following:
 - a. The date, beginning and ending time of the observation.
 - b. The location of the observation.
 - c. The wildlife observed.
 - d. The type of habitat each species was observed in.
 - e. The purpose of the observation, what did you plan to learn? Did you learn what you planned?
5. Make a plaster cast of animal tracks on a fieldtrip or at a Royal Ranger meeting using a track kit, commercial or Outpost made.
6. Choose two of the following to be submitted to your Commander:
 - a. Photograph two wildlife species. Write a 75-100word description identifying each species and habitat. Each report should include a sketch of its tracks, a map showing the range or territory, and a list of the food it eats.
 - b. Find eight descriptions of wildlife species that live in your area, from the World Wide Web. Print out their images and list basic information.
 - c. Prepare a scrapbook containing the descriptions and habitats of four wildlife species that live in your area. Include a picture drawing or image of each species.
7. Be able to recognize from photos, drawings or images, at least 24 mammals native to your country.
8. Recite the Conservation Pledge and explain what you can do to protect wildlife.
9. Recite three scripture references about three different animals.