

Troop 373

Communication Merit Badge*

January 2010 - Mr. Evans

***Eagle Required Merit Badge**

What is communications

- **Communication** is the exchange of thoughts, messages, or information, as by speech, signals, writing, or behavior
- Communication is a learned skill
- We are born with the physical ability to talk
- We learn over time to speak well and communicate effectively
- Speaking, listening, and our ability to understand verbal and nonverbal meanings are skills we develop in various ways

Communications - continued

- We learn basic communication skills by observing other people and modeling our behaviors based on what we see
- We also are taught some communications skills directly through education, and by practicing those skills and having them evaluated
- Communications focuses on how people use messages to generate meanings within and across various contexts, cultures, channels, and media
- The field of communication promotes the effective and ethical practice of human communication

Requirement 1

Face-to-Face Communication - I often find that when I look the other person in the eyes and ask them something I get far more information than I ever would otherwise. You can look at a person and tell if they understand the subject, like we are doing now. In my opinion, this is the best form of communication...

When might this method not be appropriate or effective? Face-to-face communication would not work if there was a distance between the two speakers for instance...one is here and the other is in New York, or, I speak in English but you only understand Japanese...this form of communication would be impossible in that case

Requirement 1 – Cont:

Telephone communication – We are able to contact any person with a telephone at any time and is the next best method for communicating

When might this method not be appropriate or effective? Phone communication would not work if one of the persons communicating could not speak the same language or speak clearly or they did not have a phone or...

Requirement 1 – Cont:

Writing a Letter or Email or Text - You can communicate quickly, without worry of interrupting someone, at anytime of the day or night, and is a very easy way to communicate for the sender. You only need a piece of paper or a PC with Email or a Cell Phone and the address to whom you want to send your message to. It is a silent way to communicate with one or many.

When might this method not be appropriate or effective? This form of communication would not work if one person cannot read or write or if they do not have access to the internet or a Cell phone or if they do not check their messages very often. Also, it is very difficult to express an emotion in a written message.

Requirement 2 – Describe yourself

M - Merit Badge Counselor

R - Reliable, married for 29 years, Scout Leader for 9 years,
worked for the same company 23 years

E - Electrical Engineer (EE)

V - Valiant, served 4 years in the US Navy

A - Absolutely crazy about fishing

N - Nice...😊

S - Scientist...Chemical Analysis Instrumentation - Expert

Requirement 3 – 5 Minute Speech

- Outline what you are going to say
- Plan the time (speaking always takes longer than you think)
 - Pick a subject that you know well
 - Begin with an introduction
 - Add some light humor (an icebreaker)
 - ✓ This doesn't always work, but don't let it bother you
 - Explain what your going to speak about
 - Speak about it
 - Summarize
 - End
- Rehearse at least three times
- Speak up – project your voice
- Look your audience in the eye
- Smile
- Keep hands out of your pockets (put on your hips or cross them)
- Try to be yourself

Requirement 4 – Interview

- Pick an adult that you know
- Prepare a list of ten questions to ask them
 - Tell me about your job?
 - What other jobs have you done in life?
 - What’s the most important thing you learned in life?
 - What is your most favorite memory...
- Use follow-up questions as you listen
- Take notes
- After the interview, copy your notes and expand upon them
- Show how you would call to invite this person to speak at a scout meeting for instance

Requirement 5 – Attend a meeting

- Visit a public meeting for Centennial or Littleton
- Attend a community meeting (check the library for notices or your local HOA)
- Listen to a debate on TV, the Radio, or the Internet
- Half hour is long enough so long as you listen to two points of view
- Practice Active Listening Skills
 - Pay attention, don't interrupt
 - Ask questions for clarification
 - Listen to what is said, not just you want to hear
- Take notes
- Summarize notes and prepare report

Requirement 6 – Teach a skill

- Teach someone how to catch a fish
- Teach someone how to pitch a tent
- Teach someone how to tie scout knots
- Write a plan
 - Write an objective statement
 - List the main topics/steps
 - Prepare teaching aids (drawings, examples, model)
 - Construct a test for the student

Requirement 7 - Newsletter

- Produce a newsletter, brochure, flier or other printed material for Troop 373. Include at least one photo or illustration
- Examples: Fundraising, Service Project you helped with, Scouting for Food, Patrol Campout, Klonderee, Camporee, Opening & Closing Colors, Summer Camp, etc...

Requirement 8- Plan a program

- Have approval of patrol leader's council first for one of the following...
- Court of Honor
 - Opening ceremony
 - Awards
 - Special Recognition
 - Closing ceremony
- Campfire
 - Skits
 - Songs
 - Stories
 - Flag Retirement

Requirement 9 – Careers

- Journalism (Reporting, writing for a paper)
- Public Office (Police, Transportation, etc.)
- Radio/TV Broadcasting
- Acting (Movies, TV, Stage)
- Audio/Sound technicians
- Teaching
- Sales / Marketing
- Web site development
- Advertising