



FAQs: Interactive Digital Merit Badge Pamphlets

- **What is an interactive digital merit badge pamphlet?**

The interactive digital merit badge pamphlet brings the merit badge experience to life. It provides youth and merit badge counselors richer and more experiential content such as:

- Search capabilities to save you time, with requirements linked to the appropriate content
- Videos including “how to” videos, career bios, virtual tours, and experiences just not possible in print
- Simulations and animations
- Slide shows and additional graphics
- Pop-up information such as definitions
- Interactive Q&A

This new digital version also allows for more content. While print versions are limited to 96 pages due to cost and space considerations, digital versions do not have the same limitations and can include more in-depth content that can be searched and easily accessed.

- **What devices will it work on?**

It will work on Macs, PCs, smartphones (both Android and iPhone), and tablets. You will need an Internet connection. It is not designed for Microsoft phones, and Kindles do not support video at this time.

- **Is it possible to see some of the new material being added before I purchase my first interactive digital merit badge pamphlet?**

Sure. We have provided a small sampling of the new material for viewing on www.boyslife.org/meritbadges and we also have posted a free sample chapter. Feel free to check it out.

- **Why were these created?**

The Scouting community and youth want to take their merit badge pamphlets with them wherever they go 24x7 on their digital device. It’s all about convenience and ease of use.

Also Scouters asked if we could provide “how to” videos so people can understand and visualize the content better. Because “a picture is worth a thousand words,” we asked many of our talented Scouters and youth to share their practical experience with other Scouters. And Scouts teaching other Scouts is an important skill.

We believe this new interactive experience will help the merit badge series come alive. This new tool will continue to keep Scouting relevant and dynamic to the youth of today.

- **Wow! I’m ready to get a couple of these. How do I purchase mine?**

Go to <http://www.scoutstuff.org/bsa/literature-media/interactive-digital.html>.

- **What are the steps to get my new interactive digital merit badge pamphlet?**

- 1) Go to <http://www.scoutstuff.org/bsa/literature-media/interactive-digital.html> to purchase.
- 2) Inkling will send you an email confirming your product order. (Watch your email and check your junk/spam folder.) In the email is a link to set up your password. Set up your password, then go to <http://inkling.com/read> to download your interactive digital merit badge pamphlet.
- 3) Go to your app store and download the free Inkling app on each device you plan to use.

- **I’ve followed the directions from Inkling, but I’m on their Corporate homepage. What do I do?**

Just add “/read” to the www.inkling.com/read to the link and you will be fine.

- **Who is Inkling? Is it a BSA company?**

Inkling is not a BSA company; it is an independent, private company. Inkling is a provider and partner of Pearson, who helps edit and publish BSA materials.

- **Do I have to set up an account with InKling in order to get my interactive digital merit badge pamphlet?**
Yes. InKling provides the e-reader and bookshelf you need to use your interactive digital merit badge pamphlet.
- **How do I set up an InKling account?**
After you purchase your interactive digital merit badge pamphlet, you will receive an email from InKling. This email will confirm your order and contain a link for you to set up your password. After you have set up your password, go to <http://inkling.com/read> to download your merit badge pamphlet.
- **This is great. I'm so excited to share the news with other volunteers in my troop, district, or council. What resources are available to share?**
The best resource is www.boyslife.org/meritbadges. This Web page has:
 - Information on what an interactive digital merit badge pamphlet is
 - A free sample chapter
 - A listing of what's coming next
 - Information on where to buy interactive digital merit badge pamphlets
 - Steps for downloading your new digital copy
 - A separate *Boys' Life* Web page for each interactive digital merit badge pamphlet
 - Information on augmented reality
- **Will the print versions go away?**
No. The BSA is committed to continuing print versions as long as there is a demand for print.
- **Can I continue to use my print version?**
Yes, you may continue to use your print version. Many people have said they plan to keep their print version and also purchase the interactive version for the convenience factor and enhanced material.
- **How are these different from the print version?**
The interactive digital version has the same content plus much more. Each merit badge pamphlet is unique in the type of digital assets that have been added. The new features are based on the topic and can include video, slide shows, pop-up information, text, graphics, simulations, and Q&As.
- **Will these pamphlets be updated more frequently than the print version?**
The focus will first be on creating and releasing the interactive digital merit badge pamphlets. Then in 2017, a schedule will be established for updating interactive merit badge pamphlets. If there is an urgent need for updating, the digital process is much quicker than print.
- **Will updates be free?**
The interactive digital merit badge pamphlet will be the most up-to-date version available. Any minor updates will be available to you free.
- **Can I use my copy on more than one device?**
Yes. Once you purchase the interactive digital merit badge pamphlet, it is available to you 24x7 on any of your devices. Access is user based, so when you log in, the system will recognize you and allow you to access the pamphlet on the device you select. The system will allow you to use two devices at a time.
- **How long can I keep the interactive digital merit badge pamphlet?**
Once you purchase the interactive digital merit badge pamphlet, it is yours to keep as long as you like. There is currently no expiration date.
- **Can I loan my copy or donate it to my troop library?**
No. This is an individual purchase that should only be used on your own device and will only be accessible using your login. It cannot be transferred to another login.

- **Can I print copies from my interactive digital version?**
In general, this platform does not have print capability. But there will be some items such as forms that will be available for download. These will also be available on the www.boyslife.org/meritbadges website.
- **Can I make suggestions for updates? To whom?**
Yes, suggestions are always welcome. Use the same email as usual—merit.badge@scouting.org.
- **Can my troop or I contribute material for updates?**
Yes. If you have created a video or would like to suggest a video, please send an email and your video to merit.badge@scouting.org. Put **digital and the name of the merit badge** in the subject line. Submitting a video does not guarantee it will be accepted. And you must have permission from all involved in the video before sending it to the BSA.
- **I've heard there is also a new augmented reality (AR) tool available.**
Yes, that's right. The AR is a free download. Instructions are at www.boyslife.org/meritbadges. This new tool will allow you to use your print version of the merit badge pamphlet and still view some of the new material. Just download the free app, locate the activated page, and place your phone or tablet over it to see it come to life with videos. To find more out about the new Scouting 4D app, go to www.boyslife.org/meritbadges.
- **Will the Kindle e-book still be available?**
When each new interactive digital version is launched, the Kindle version will be discontinued. The Kindle versions are basically a digital PDF of the print version. They do not have the additional content. Because the interactive digital version will be more robust with more content and features, the interactive digital versions will replace the Kindle versions.
- **Will these digital versions affect the merit badge counselor's role?**
No, the merit badge counselor's role will not change. Adult association remains an important part of the merit badge experience. The only difference is that the new material will provide a level of consistency across the nation for some foundational content. The new format allows merit badge counselors to focus their time on a higher level of interaction with youth. We still need and appreciate the value that merit badge counselors bring to support the interactive learning with youth.
- **Troubleshooting Tips**
 - ✓ Did you check your junk mail for the Inkling email?
 - ✓ Log-in issues?
 - Did you use the same email address you used when you purchased the product?
 - Did you use the same email address you used when you set up your Inkling account?
 - Did you remember to use the same email address to log in to Inkling on all of your devices?
 - ✓ You can reset your password yourself by clicking on "forgot your password" or going to <https://www.inkling.com/store/account/reset-password/>.
 - ✓ Browser issues? The enriched content requires an up-to-date browser for best results. **Google Chrome works the best.** Or verify you have the most up-to-date version of your browser.
 - ✓ Need more help? Submit your issue to support@inkling.com.
 - ✓ Want more information? See some how to get started articles at <https://www.inkling.com/support/>.

Thank you for your interest in the new interactive digital merit badge pamphlets. We hope you enjoy them!