



# Forensics

## Bear Adventure Workbook



No one may add or subtract from the official requirements found in the *Cub Scout Bear Handbook*

This workbook was updated in December, 2016.

<http://www.USScouts.Org> • <http://www.MeritBadge.Org>

Please submit errors, omissions, comments or suggestions about this **workbook** to: [Workbooks@USScouts.Org](mailto:Workbooks@USScouts.Org)  
Comments or suggestions for changes to the **requirements** should be sent to: [Advancement.Team@Scouting.Org](mailto:Advancement.Team@Scouting.Org)

Cub Scout's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Pack No. : \_\_\_\_\_

**This adventure is an elective adventure which can be used to earn the Bear Badge.**

Complete all of the following.

1. Talk with your family or den about forensics and how it is used to help solve crimes.


2. Take your fingerprints and learn how to analyze them. (A blank fingerprint card is attached.)

3. Complete one of the following:

- a. Learn about chromatography and how it is used in solving crimes.


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- Do an investigation using different types of black, felt-tip markers. Share your results with your den.


- b. Do an analysis of four different substances: salt, sugar, baking soda, and cornstarch.

**Salt**


**Sugar**


**Baking Soda**


**Cornstarch**


4. Complete one of the following:

a. Visit the sheriff's office or police station in your town. Find out how officers collect evidence.

**[Note that this may be during the same visit as "Paws for Action"]**


b. Learn about the different jobs available in forensic science.


Choose two, and find out what is required to work in those jobs.

Job 1: \_\_\_\_\_


Job 2: \_\_\_\_\_


Share what you learned with your den.

- c. **Learn how animals are used to gather important evidence. Talk about your findings with your den.**


<b>FINGERPRINT CARD</b>									
LAST NAME		FIRST NAME			MIDDLE NAME			SR; JR; etc.	
DATE OF BIRTH	PLACE OF BIRTH	SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER	SEX	RACE	HGT.	WGT.	EYES	HAIR	
DATE	SIGNATURE OF PERSON FINGERPRINTED			RESIDENCE OF PERSON FINGERPRINTED					
DATE	SIGNATURE OF PERSON TAKING FINGERPRINTS			PRINTED NAME OF PERSON TAKING FINGERPRINTS					
1. RIGHT THUMB		2. RIGHT INDEX		3. RIGHT MIDDLE		4. RIGHT RING		5. RIGHT LITTLE	
6. LEFT THUMB		7. LEFT INDEX		8. LEFT MIDDLE		9. LEFT RING		10. LEFT LITTLE	
LEFT FOUR FINGERS TAKEN SIMULTANEOUSLY				L. THUMB	R THUMB	RIGHT FOUR FINGERS TAKEN SIMULTANEOUSLY			

**Notes:**

1. Based on FBI Criminal Justice Information Services Division Fingerprint Card: FD-258 Applicant Card.
2. You may be asked to use this or another card to take fingerprints. Please print on card stock paper.
3. Parent or Guardian - Consider keeping this fingerprint card in a safe place.

## Important excerpts from the [Guide To Advancement - 2013](#), No. 33088 (SKU-618673)

### [1.0.0.0] — Introduction

The current edition of the *Guide to Advancement* is the official source for administering advancement in all Boy Scouts of America programs: Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, Varsity Scouting, Venturing, and Sea Scouts. It replaces any previous BSA advancement manuals and previous editions of the *Guide to Advancement*.

### [Page 4, and 5.0.1.4] — Policy on Unauthorized Changes to Advancement Program

**No council, committee, district, unit, or individual has the authority to add to, or subtract from, advancement requirements.** There are limited exceptions relating only to youth members with special needs. For details see section 10, “Advancement for Members With Special Needs”.

### [Page 4] — The “Guide to Safe Scouting” Applies

Policies and procedures outlined in the *Guide to Safe Scouting* apply to all BSA activities, including those related to advancement and Eagle Scout service projects.

### [4.1.0.3] — Who Approves Cub Scout Advancement?

A key responsibility for den leaders is to implement the den meeting plans as outlined in the four den leader guides shown within this topic. For Tiger through Bear ranks, if the activity is completed outside of the den meeting, the parent, adult partner, or another trusted adult should sign in the boy’s handbook, indicating the Cub Scout has done his best to complete the requirement. The den leader then approves that requirement after consultation with the family or the boy to confirm completion. If the requirement is completed in a den meeting, the den leader signs in both places. Den leaders may, however, ask an assistant or parent who helps at meetings to play the role of “Akela” and assist with the approvals. For Webelos and Arrow of Light ranks, the den leader signs for approval of all requirements, unless the den leader delegates this responsibility.

### [4.1.0.4] — “Do Your Best”

Cub Scouts—even those of the same age—may have very different developmental timetables. For this reason, advancement performance in Cub Scouting is centered on its motto: “Do Your Best.” When a boy has done this—his very best—then regardless of the requirements for any rank or award, it is enough; accomplishment is noted. This is why den leaders, assistants, and parents or guardians are involved in approvals. Generally they know if effort put forth is really the Cub Scout’s best.

When a boy completes advancement, he should be congratulated immediately and publicly. And though badges of rank should be reserved for the next pack meeting, it is best to present items such as belt loops and pins soon after they have been earned. If it is possible for the pack to report and purchase these awards quickly, they could be presented at a den meeting, rather than waiting for a pack meeting. If presented at den meetings, the accompanying pocket certificates can be used in a ceremony at a subsequent pack meeting—or vice versa with the pocket certificates at a den meeting. However this is done, it is important to note that advancement is an individual process, not dependent on the work or progress of others. Awards should not be withheld for group recognition. Likewise, a boy should not be presented with recognition he has not earned simply so that he will “not feel left out.”

In the same spirit as “Do Your Best,” if a boy is close to earning a badge of rank when the school year ends, the pack committee, in consultation with the den leader and the Cub Scout’s parent or guardian, may allow him a few weeks to complete the badge before going on to the next rank. Earning it will give him added incentive to continue in Scouting and carry on and tackle the next rank.

### Additional notes of interest:

- Cub Scouts may complete requirements in a family, den, pack, school, or community environment.
- “**Akela**” (Pronounced “*Ah-KAY-la*”) — Akela (Ah-KAY-la) is a title of respect used in Cub Scouting—any good leader is Akela, who is also the leader and guide for Cub Scouts on the advancement trail.