

2010

TRAFFIC SAFETY  
PROGRAM OVERVIEW  
& WORKBOOK



GRAND ISLAND PUBLIC SAFETY CENTER

MERIT BADGE UNIVERSITY

OVERLAND TRAILS COUNCIL

7/31/2010

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FEBRUARY 2010

Information in this booklet was accurate at the time of publishing.  
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Program Overview & Workbook was reviewed by  
MBU Staff/Committee.

## TRAFFIC SAFETY PROGRAM OVERVIEW

**COUNSELOR:** tba

**C/O:** Overland Trails Council  
PO Box 1361  
Grand Island, NE 68802-1361

**LOCATION:** Grand Island Public Safety Center  
111 Public Safety Drive  
Grand Island, NE 68801

**TRANSPORTATION:** Transportation is provided

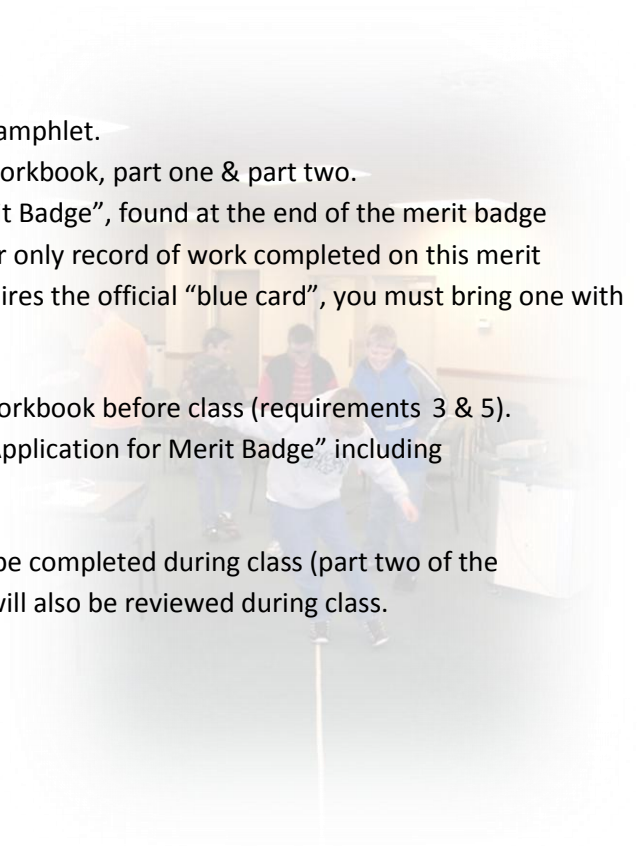
**ADDITIONAL COSTS:** None

**CLASS SIZE:** 10

**BRING TO CLASS:** Traffic Safety merit badge pamphlet.  
Traffic Safety merit badge workbook, part one & part two.  
Signed "Application for Merit Badge", found at the end of the merit badge workbook. (This will be your only record of work completed on this merit badge.) If your Council requires the official "blue card", you must bring one with you to class.

**PRE-REQUISITES:** Complete Part One of the workbook before class (requirements 3 & 5).  
Complete information on "Application for Merit Badge" including Scoutmasters signature.

**CURRICULUM:** Requirements 1, 2, & 4 will be completed during class (part two of the workbook). Pre-requisites will also be reviewed during class.



PRE-REQUISITE REQUIREMENTS ARE PRINTED IN **ITALICS &**  
**MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE CLASS.**

1. Do the following:
  - a) Describe the top 10 mistakes new drivers frequently make. Name the two items you are required by law to carry with you whenever you operate a motor vehicle.
  - b) Describe how alcohol and other drugs affect the human body and why a person should never drink and drive, or drive while under the influence of any mind-altering substances including prescription drugs, cold medications, and illicit drugs. For the state where you live, find out what is the legal blood alcohol concentration and the consequences for driving while intoxicated or driving under the influence. Find out what the open-container law is in your state.
  - c) Describe at least four factors to be considered in the design of a road or highway. Explain how roadside hazards and road conditions contribute to the occurrence and seriousness of traffic crashes.
  - d) Explain why a driver who is fatigued or distracted should not operate a motor vehicle. List five common distractions, explain how driver distractions contribute to traffic accidents, and tell how drivers can minimize distractions. Describe how volunteer drivers can plan to be alert when transporting Scouting participants.
2. Do the following:
  - a) Demonstrate how to properly wear a lap or shoulder belt. Explain why it is important for drivers and passengers to wear safety belts at all times.
  - b) List five safety features found in motor vehicles besides occupant restraint systems. Describe each safety feature, how each works, and how each contributes to safety.
3. **Do the following:**
  - a) **Using your family car or another vehicle, demonstrate that all lights and lighting systems in the vehicle are working. Describe the function and explain why each type of light is important to safe driving.**
  - b) **Using your family car or another vehicle, demonstrate how to check tire pressure and identify the correct tire pressure for the vehicle. Explain why proper tire pressure is important to safe driving.**
  - c) **Demonstrate a method to check for adequate tire tread. Explain why proper tire tread is important to safe driving.**
  - d) **Demonstrate with a smear-and-clear test if the windshield wiper blades will clear the windshield completely or need to be replaced. Describe instances in good and bad weather when windshield washers are important to safe driving.**
4. Do the following:

- a) In a location away from traffic hazards, measure with a tape measure—not in a car—and mark off with stakes the distance that a car will travel during the time needed for decision and reaction, and the braking distances necessary to stop a car traveling 30, 50, and 70 miles per hour on dry, level pavement. Discuss how environmental factors such as bad weather and road conditions will affect the distance.
- b) Demonstrate the difference in nighttime visibility between a properly lit bicycle and rider (or a pedestrian) wearing reflective material and a bicycle and rider with no lights (or a pedestrian) dressed in dark clothing, without reflective material.
- c) Explain how color and shape are used to help road users recognize and understand the information presented on traffic and roadway signs. Explain the purpose of different types of signs, signals, and pavement markings.
- d) Describe at least three examples of traffic laws that apply to drivers of motor vehicles and that bicyclists must also obey.

**5. Do ONE of the following:**

- a) **Interview a traffic law enforcement officer in your community to identify what three traffic safety problems the officer is most concerned about. Discuss with your merit badge counselor possible ways to solve one of those problems.**
- b) **Using the Internet (with your parent's permission), visit five Web sites that cover safe driving for teenagers. As a group, discuss what you learn with your counselor and at least three other teenagers.**
- c) **Initiate and organize an activity or event to demonstrate the importance of traffic safety.**
- d) **Accompanied by an adult and a buddy, pick a safe place to observe traffic at a controlled intersection (traffic signal or stop sign) on three separate days and at three different times of the day, for 30 minutes on each visit. At this intersection, survey (1) such violations as running a red light or stop sign; or (2) seat belt usage. Count the number of violations or number of drivers not wearing a seat belt. Record in general terms if the driver was young or old, male or female. Keep track of the total number of vehicles observed so that you can determine the percentage of compliance vs. violations. Discuss your findings with your merit badge counselor.**

# TRAFFIC SAFETY WORKBOOK

## PART ONE, PRE-REQUISITIES



Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Unit # \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_  
 Council \_\_\_\_\_

**Part One of the workbook must be completed before class.**

**Bring the entire workbook (part one and part two) with you to class.**

**Also bring the "Application for Merit Badge" signed by your scoutmaster (included at the end of the workbook).**

- 3. Do the following:
  - a) Using your family car or another vehicle, demonstrate that all lights and lighting systems in the vehicle are working. Describe the function and explain why each type of light is important to safe driving.

*Demonstrate that all lights and lighting systems are working:*


*Describe the function why each type of light is important:*

<i>Light or Lighting System</i>	<i>Importance</i>

- b) Using your family car or another vehicle, demonstrate how to check tire pressure and identify the correct tire pressure for the vehicle. Explain why proper tire pressure is important to safe driving.

*Demonstrate how to check tire pressure:*


Name \_\_\_\_\_

3. continued

- c) Demonstrate a method to check for adequate tire tread. Explain why proper tire tread is important to safe driving.

*Demonstrate a method to check for tire tread:*


*Explain why proper tire tread is important:*


- d) Demonstrate with a smear-and-clear test if the windshield wiper blades will clear the windshield completely or need to be replaced. Describe instances in good and bad weather when windshield washers are important to safe driving.

*Demonstrate a smear-and-clear test:*


*Describe instance when windshield washers are important:*

*Good weather:*


*Bad weather:*




Name \_\_\_\_\_

5. continued

**OR**

- c) Initiate and organize an activity or event to demonstrate the importance of traffic safety.

*Activity or event:*

*Initial:                      date:*

**OR**

- d) Accompanied by an adult and a buddy, pick a safe place to observe traffic at a controlled intersection (traffic signal or stop sign) on three separate days and at three different times of the day, for 30 minutes on each visit. At this intersection, survey (1) such violations as running a red light or stop sign; or (2) seat belt usage. Count the number of violations or number of drivers not wearing a seat belt. Record in general terms if the driver was young or old, male or female. Keep track of the total number of vehicles observed so that you can determine the percentage of compliance vs. violations. Discuss your findings with your merit badge counselor.

*To help you complete this requirement, "Field Data Sheets" (field observations) can be found at the end of this workbook.*



# TRAFFIC SAFETY WORKBOOK

## PART TWO, CLASS CURRICULUM

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Unit # \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_  
Council \_\_\_\_\_

**Part Two of the workbook will be completed during class.**

- 1. Do the following:
  - a) Describe the top 10 mistakes new drivers frequently make. Name the two items you are required by law to carry with you whenever you operate a motor vehicle.

*Top 10 mistakes:*

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10

*Two items you must carry with you:*

1
2

Name \_\_\_\_\_

1. continued

- b) Describe how alcohol and other drugs affect the human body and why a person should never drink and drive, or drive while under the influence of any mind-altering substances including prescription drugs, cold medications, and illicit drugs. For the state where you live, find out what is the legal blood alcohol concentration and the consequences for driving while intoxicated or driving under the influence. Find out what the open-container law is in your state.

*How alcohol and drugs affect the human body:*


*Why a person should never drink and drive:*


*Mind-altering substances including prescription drugs, cold medications and illicit drugs:*


*Legal blood alcohol concentration:*

--

*Consequences for driving while intoxicated or under the influence:*


*Open container law:*


Name \_\_\_\_\_

1. continued

- c) Describe at least four factors to be considered in the design of a road or highway. Explain how roadside hazards and road conditions contribute to the occurrence and seriousness of traffic crashes.

*Factors that are considered in the design of roads or highways:*

1
2
3
4

*Roadside hazards and road conditions:*


- d) Explain why a driver who is fatigued or distracted should not operate a motor vehicle. List five common distractions, explain how driver distractions contribute to traffic accidents, and tell how drivers can minimize distractions. Describe how volunteer drivers can plan to be alert when transporting Scooting participants.

*Fatigued or distracted:*


*Common distractions:*

1
2
3
4
5

Name \_\_\_\_\_

1. d) continued

*How distractions contribute to traffic accidents:*


*Minimize distractions:*


*Plan to be alert:*


- 2. Do the following:
  - a) Demonstrate how to properly wear a lap or shoulder belt. Explain why it is important for drivers and passengers to wear safety belts at all times.

*Properly wear a lap or shoulder belt:*

	<i>Initial:</i>	<i>date:</i>
--	-----------------	--------------

*Why it is important:*


Name \_\_\_\_\_

2. continued  
 b) List five safety features found in motor vehicles besides occupant restraint systems. Describe each safety feature, how each works, and how each contributes to safety.

*Safety features found in motor vehicles besides occupant restraint systems:*

<i>Safety feature</i>	<i>How it works</i>	<i>How it contributes to safety</i>
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

4. Do the following:
- a) In a location away from traffic hazards, measure with a tape measure—not in a car—and mark off with stakes the distance that a car will travel during the time needed for decision and reaction, and the braking distances necessary to stop a car traveling 30, 50, and 70 miles per hour on dry, level pavement. Discuss how environmental factors such as bad weather and road conditions will affect the distance.

<i>Time needed for decision and reaction</i>	<i>Distance that a car will travel</i>
<i>30 miles per hour</i>	
<i>50 miles per hour</i>	
<i>70 miles per hour</i>	

*How environmental factors affect the distance:*


Name \_\_\_\_\_

4. continued

- b) Demonstrate the difference in nighttime visibility between a properly lit bicycle and rider (or a pedestrian) wearing reflective material and a bicycle and rider with no lights (or a pedestrian) dressed in dark clothing, without reflective material.

*Demonstrate the differences in nighttime visibility:*

<i>Initial:</i>	<i>date:</i>
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- c) Explain how color and shape are used to help road users recognize and understand the information presented on traffic and roadway signs. Explain the purpose of different types of signs, signals, and pavement markings.

*Explain how color and shape:*


*Purpose of different types of signs, signals and pavement markings:*


- d) Describe at least three examples of traffic laws that apply to drivers of motor vehicles and that bicyclists must also obey.

*Traffic laws that drivers of motor vehicles and bicyclists must obey:*

1
2
3

## ORGANIZATIONS and WEB SITES

*(Whenever you go online, be sure you have your parent's permission first.)*

Allstate Foundation Teen Safe Driving Program

<http://www.allstate.com/community>

American Automobile Association Foundation for Traffic Safety

<http://www.aaafoundation.org>

Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)

<http://www.madd.org>

National Center for Injury Prevention and Control

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/duip/spotlite/teendrivers.htm>

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

<http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov>

National Safety Council

<http://www.nsc.org/issues/drivsafe.htm>

Online Study Guide for Student Drivers

<http://golocalnet.com>

Road Ready Teens

<http://www.roadreadyteens.org>

SAFE KIDS Worldwide

<http://www.safekids.org>

Students Against Destructive Decisions (SADD)

<http://www.sadd.org>

Teendriving.com

<http://www.teendriving.com>

# TRAFFIC SAFETY WORKBOOK

Notes



**APPLICATION FOR MERIT BADGE**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

Is a registered \_\_\_\_\_ Boy Scout,  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Varsity Scout,  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Venturer,

of \_\_\_\_\_ No. \_\_\_\_\_  
Troop, team, crew, ship

District: \_\_\_\_\_

Council: \_\_\_\_\_

**MERIT BADGE UNIVERISTY**

Merit Badge: **Traffic Safety**

Counselor: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: Overland Trails Council

PO Box 1361

2808 O'Flannagan

Grand Island, NE 68802-1361

Phone: 308-382-3717

email: mbuotc@yahoo.com

***and is qualified to begin working for this merit badge and has completed the following pre-requisite requirements:***

**SECTION A PRE-REQUISITE REQUIREMENTS**

Requirement No. and letter	Date of Approval	Counselor Initial	Requirement No. and letter	Date of Approval	Counselor Initial
3					
5					

***The applicant has personally appeared before me and demonstrated to my satisfaction that he has met all pre-requisites requirements for the above stated merit badge and is ready to attend his assigned MBU class.***

Signature of Unit Leader \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**SECTION B APPLICANTS RECORD**

Requirement No. and letter	Date of Approval	Counselor Initial	Requirement No. and letter	Date of Approval	Counselor Initial
1					
2					
4					

The applicant has personally appeared before me and demonstrated to my satisfaction that he has completed all requirements in **SECTION B** above for the

Merit Badge: **Traffic Safety**

Name of Counselor: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Counselor \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### SCOUT INSTRUCTIONS

- Complete your name, address, city, unit type & number, district, & council on the Application for Merit Badge.
- Your unit leader must sign the Application for Merit Badge before attending class.
- All other information is already printed on the Application for Merit Badge; please make sure all information is correct.
- The merit badge counselor is registered & approved for this merit badge and is on the MBU Counselor's List.
- Read the merit badge pamphlet.
- Attend the merit badge class.
- Always meet with your counselor along with a buddy (a Scout, friend, or parent)
- Have your merit badge worksheet with you when you attend class.
- **If the merit badge pre-requisites are not completed before class, you will not be able to complete the merit badge during this weekend event, you will have to follow up with your Unit's Advancement Chair when you return home**
- **PLEASE BE AWARE THAT SOME COUNSELORS WILL NOT ALLOW YOU TO ATTEND THEIR CLASS WITHOUT PRE-REQUISITES COMPLETED—CLASS CURRICULUM IS DEPENDENT ON PRE-REQUISITE WORK BEING COMPLETED!**

### COUNSELOR INSTRUCTIONS

- Never meet alone with a Scout.
- Verify all information & merit badge name on Application for Merit Badge is correct.
- Sign your name on the line at the bottom of **"SECTION B APPLICANTS RECORD"**.

