



# Liberty Trek

## Journalism Merit Badge Contest



**Scout Leader,**

**We hope you and your Scouts are registered and preparing for Liberty Trek. This will be an exciting event with many things to see and do. We hope you took a few minutes to view the YouTube Liberty Trek video and looked over the Liberty Trek PowerPoint presentation.**

**In preparation for October's 2017 Liberty Trek, you are invited to engage your Scouts in learning about two of our fundamental first amendment rights: freedom of speech and freedom of the press. Liberty Trek is providing an "essay" contest to correspond with fulfilling requirements for the Journalism Merit Badge.**

**Plan to give your Scouts several months to complete requirements one, two, four and five prior to Liberty Trek. Then until October 15, 2017 to complete requirement 3d. To enter the contest only requirement 3d needs to be fulfilled.**

**We hope you will share this contest with your Scouts and work with them to complete the Journalism Merit Badge requirements.**

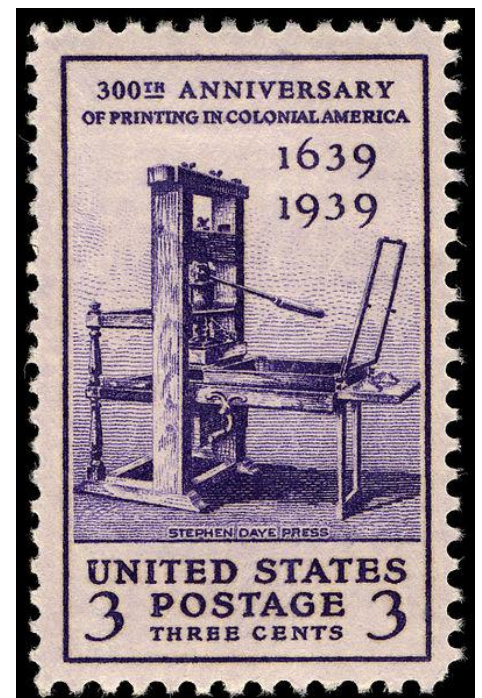
**We look forward to joining with you and your Scouts at Liberty Trek!**

**Sincerely,**

**Liberty Trek Coordinating Committee.**

**Attachments: Contest Rules,  
Merit Badge Requirements,  
and Contest Application Form**

U.S. CONSTITUTION - AMENDMENT ONE:  
"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."





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## Journalism Merit Badge Contest



**First Place Prize ★ Second Place Prize ★ Third Place Prize  
And May Have Your Award Winning Story Published in a Newspaper!**

Do you like to write a story? Are you interested in the Journalism Merit Badge? Would you enjoy the challenge of writing a story to have it published in a newspaper? We are looking for Scouts to tell their story of Liberty Trek. If you answered "yes" to the questions above, then this contest may be right for you!

To access the Journalism Merit Badge requirements go to:  
<http://usscouts.org/mb/worksheets/Journalism.pdf>

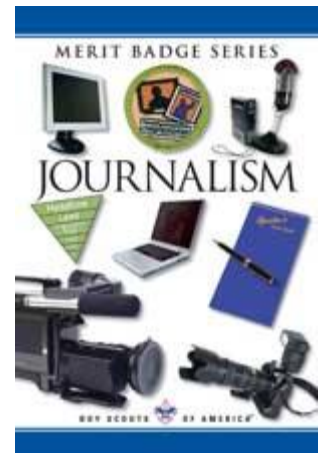
**CONTEST RULES:** Any registered Scout, between the ages of 11 and 20, who attends Liberty Trek can write a story and enter the contest. All stories submitted will be considered and winners will have their stories submitted for publication to a local newspaper.

To enter the contest you must simply write a story about your experiences at Liberty Trek. Send your completed Application Form and your story via email to:

**The Liberty Trek Intern - Email Contact Information Will Be Made Available at Liberty Trek**

Some things you may want to consider when writing your story are:

1. What did you see and do?
2. What was the purpose of Liberty Trek? What did you learn?
3. Would you recommend Liberty Trek?
4. What did you like best about Liberty Trek and why?
5. Which Founding Father made the greatest impression on you?
6. What was the value of Liberty Trek?
7. What is liberty and why should liberty matter?



**APPLICATION DEADLINE:** You will have until **October 15, 2017** to **submit your news article**. Your email submission must be dated by October 15th.

Articles will be judged according to their content, quality, length, and theme.

Prizes will be copies of the well-written and informative books that share the facts and true account concerning three of our greatest Founding Fathers:

*The Real George Washington*, *The Real Thomas Jefferson* and *The Real Benjamin Franklin*. First place will receive a copy of all three books; second place, two books; third place, one book.



All articles and stories submitted in this contest will become the sole property of the Constitution Day Committee of Utah.



# Liberty Trek



## Journalism Merit Badge Contest

**Complete a Merit Badge Requirement and Potentially Win a Prize!**

Current as of : January 2007

### Requirements for the Journalism merit badge:

1. **Explain what freedom of the press is and how the First Amendment guarantees that you can voice your opinion. In your discussion, tell how to distinguish between fact and opinion, and explain the terms libel, slander, defamation, fair comment and criticism, public figure, privacy, and malice. Discuss how these matters relate to ethics in journalism.**
2. Do either A OR B:
  - A. Newspaper and magazine journalism:
    - A1 All on the same day, read a local newspaper, a national newspaper, a newsmagazine, and (with your parent's permission) an online news source. From each source, clip, read and compare a story about the same event. Tell your counselor how long each story is and how fair and accurate the stories are in presenting different points of view. Tell how each source handled the story differently, depending on its purpose or audience.
    - A2 Visit a newspaper or magazine office. Ask for a tour of the various divisions, (editorial, business, and printing). During your tour, talk to an executive from the business side about management's relations with reporters, editors, and photographers and what makes a 'good' newspaper or magazine.
  - B. Radio and television journalism:
    - B1 All on the same day, watch a local and national network newscast, listen to a radio newscast, and (with your parent's permission) view a national broadcast news source online. List the different news items and features presented, the different elements used, and the time in minutes and seconds and the online space devoted to each story. Compare the story lists, and discuss whether the stories are fair and accurate. Explain why the different news outlets treated the stories differently and/or presented a different point of view.
    - B2 Visit a radio or television station. Ask for a tour of the various departments, concentrating on those related to news broadcasts. During your tour, talk to the station manager or other station management executive about station operations, particularly how management and the news staff work together, and what makes a 'good' station. If possible, go with a reporter to cover a news event.
3. Discuss the differences between a hard news story and a feature story. Explain what are the 'five Ws and H.' Then **do ONE** of the following:
  - a. Choose a current or an unusual event of interest to you, and write either a hard news article OR a feature article about the event. Gear the article for print OR audio OR video journalism. Share your article with your counselor.
  - b. With your parent's permission and counselor's approval, interview someone in your community who is influential because of his or her leadership, talent, career, or life experiences. Then present to your counselor either a written or oral report telling what you learned about this person.
  - c. With your parent's permission and counselor's approval, read an autobiography written by a journalist you want to learn more about. Write an article that tells what you learned about this person and the contributions this person has made to the field of journalism.
  - d. **Attend a Scouting event [Liberty Trek] and write a 200-word article (feature or hard news) about the event.** Use either the inverted pyramid style or the chronological style. Review the article with your counselor, then submit it to your community newspaper or BSA local council or district newsletter for consideration. [*Submit to Liberty Trek Intern per contest rules*]
4. Attend a public event and do ONE of the following:
  - a. Write two newspaper articles about the event, one using the inverted pyramid style and one using the chronological style.
  - b. Using a radio or television broadcasting style, write a news story, a feature story and a critical review of the event.
  - c. Take a series of photographs to help tell the story of the event in pictures. Include news photos and feature photos in your presentation. Write a brief synopsis of the event as well as captions for your photos.
5. Find out about three career opportunities in journalism. Pick one and find out the education, training, and experience required for this profession. Discuss this with your counselor, and explain why this profession might interest you.

**Your 200-word article could win you some valuable books! Complete Requirements 1, 2, 4 and 5 before Liberty Trek to earn the Journalism Merit Badge. Complete 3d and enter the contest to win a prize!**



# *Liberty Trek*

## **Journalism Merit Badge Contest**

### **Application Form**

(Please print clearly)



SUBMISSION DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Your Email Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Your Unit Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Send this completed form along with your Journalism Merit Badge requirement 3d minimum "200-word article" to the Liberty Trek Intern. **Be sure to obtain the Intern's contact information at Liberty Trek.**