

ANIMAL CARER

Pets and animals need a lot of care. Your Animal Carer badge will show everyone how well you look after your four-legged friends.

How to earn your badge

1. Complete one of these:
 - Take care of an animal for at least two months. Give it the correct foods, and learn to recognise common traits and habits including how to groom, clean and exercise the animal.
 - Help to care for a farm animal for at least two months. Know the correct foods to give it and be able to recognise common illnesses. Learn what special care you need to give before and after the birth of farm animals.
2. Then choose two of these to do:
 - Keep a record of bird, animal or insect life in your garden, local area or park. Keep pictures, sketches, photographs or audio recordings. Do this for at least three months.
 - Visit a zoo, wildlife park, animal sanctuary or rescue centre. Find out about some of the animals you see. What are their feeding habits and natural habitats?
 - Join an animal, bird or wildlife society. Either take part in one of its activities or make progress in any award scheme it offers.
 - Find out about dangers that threaten wildlife in their natural habitat. Make a poster, collage or drawing or tell other Cub Scouts what you found out.
 - Learn and understand what you need to do and be aware of when deciding to own a pet.

Top tips

The animal you care for could be a dog, cat, gerbil, guinea pig, fish, bird, rabbit, lamb or even a stick insect!

This can include the looking after of wild animals such as birds. Caring for them would include feeding them and looking after a bird bath for example.

Maybe you could help look after a family member's pet.

Even though there are lots of computer games and things that show you what it's like to care for an animal, these won't count for this badge. You will need to learn to take care of a real, live animal.

ASTRONOMER

Explore space and find out about the planets, stars and systems beyond planet Earth. Your Astronomer badge will help you on your search beyond the stratosphere.

How to earn your badge

1. Make a model or draw a simple diagram of the solar system.
2. Explain the difference between a planet and a star
3. Learn how to observe the sun safely. Find out and explain how the earth moves around the sun.
4. Observe the moon, using binoculars or a telescope if you can. Describe some of its features.
5. Identify three constellations.
6. Find out about two space-related subjects and present some information about them. You could find out about planets, the history of space exploration or space technology.

ATHLETICS PLUS

Do you want to try and do even better in athletics? If you already hold the Athletics badge you can go for the next step and aim higher.

How to earn your badge

Take part in six of the activities in the table below. Take your best four scores and, if the points you score add up to eight or more, you get your badge.

Events	You get 3 points for	You get 2 points for	You get 1 point for
50m sprint	9 seconds	10 seconds	11 seconds
Throwing a cricket ball	25 metres	22 metres	18 metres
High jump	96cm	86cm	76cm
Long jump	3 metres	2.5 metres	2 metres
Sargent jump	35cm	30cm	25cm
Shuttle run 6 x 10 metres	18 seconds	19 seconds	20 seconds
50m skip with a rope	12 seconds	13 seconds	14 seconds
1,000 metre run	5 minutes	6 minutes	10 minutes
4 x 100 metre relay race	50 seconds	60 seconds	65 seconds

COLLECTOR

Certain objects tell us a lot about people, places and history. Why not go for this badge and build up a collection of things that interest you?

How to earn your badge

1. Over three months, build up a collection of similar items.
2. Display your collection in an exciting and interesting way. This can include displaying your collection through photographs or using a computer/tablet.
3. Talk about items in your collection. Which things particularly interest you?
4. View a collection made by someone else. What do you like or dislike about the way it's presented?

Top tips

Examples of collections could be stickers or cards of your favourite sport or characters, items from nature such as rocks or shells or memorabilia from activities you've undertaken such as badges or medals or from places you've been such as postcards, magnets or keyrings.

BOOK READER

It's great to get into a good story or book. So if you read a lot, why not show it by working towards the Book Reader badge?

How to earn your badge

1. Make a list of at least six books you have read or used recently. Books you have read on an e-reader count too.
2. Name the authors of your books. Tell your leader or other Cubs something about three of your books. At least one book should be fiction and one should be non-fiction.
3. Show that you know how to care for your books and know the benefits a library can bring to people who enjoy reading.
4. Show that you can use a dictionary and a thesaurus.
5. Write a review of your favourite book and share it with your Sixer, an Explorer Scout Young Leader or your Cub Leader.

Top tips

Completing the Summer Reading Challenge can count towards achieving this badge.

For showing that you can use a dictionary or thesaurus, the use of visual/pictorial, verbal, printed or online versions is acceptable.

D.I.Y.

Hammer, hang, sand and stain, make nice things for your home – or repair them again!

How to earn your badge

1. Show how to use and take care of tools safely. Do this for a selection of them, like a hammer, saw, screwdriver, drill or glue gun.
2. Talk to your leader about how to work safely on your projects, especially when you're using electric tools.
3. Learn what the difference is between hard wood, soft wood, chipboard, plywood and MDF. For each of them, find out what they're best used for.
4. Help design and make something useful. An adult needs to supervise you. Show that you're able to:
 - measure accurately
 - saw
 - join pieces of wood together in two different ways
 - use a hammer, screwdriver and drill
 - prepare surfaces and stain, varnish or paint

Top tips

Your projects for number 4 might include:

- nesting box
- window box
- toolbox
- pencil box
- key rack
- mug tree
- coat rack
- bookends
- bookstand

GARDENER (NEW)

How to earn your badge

1. Find out what seasons are best to grow a selection of six fruits and vegetables. Find out what it is about those seasons that make them the right time to grow your fruit and vegetables.
2. Learn what tools you need to garden (a minimum of three) and show that you know how to use them safely.
3. Help to look after and grow at least one item in a garden or allotment for two months. Alternatively, grow at least two different fruits, vegetables or herbs for two months indoors or in plant pots.
4. Design plant labels for the plants you are looking after or growing.
5. Understand what mini beasts are and why they are good for our gardens and outdoor spaces. Visit a bug hotel and record what you find living there.

Top tips

- For number 2, you can learn how to use small tools like a trowel or a hand fork. If you want to find out more, you can learn about bigger tools used by adults.
- If you don't have a garden or allotment you can use, you can grow herbs indoors, using a window box or you could see if there's a scheme in your local community. Your school might have a garden you can help with, or your meeting place might have a space you can use.

Examples of fruit and veg to grow:

- herbs such as basil or mint
- vegetables such as lettuce or runner beans
- fruits such as tomatoes or strawberries

The Royal Horticultural Society runs a campaign to turn grey spaces into living, planted places. You and your Cub Pack could promise to turn a grey space around.

HOBBIES

If you have a hobby and you want to develop it, why not go for this badge? It's perfect if your hobby isn't covered by one of the other badges.

How to earn your badge

1. Over three months, be actively involved in a hobby of your choice.
2. Show and explain to your leader or Explorer Scout Young Leader what equipment, materials and background information you have used to take part in your hobby including any safety rules.
3. Talk about your hobby including why you have chosen it and what you enjoy about it.
4. Talk to your leader about how you plan to develop your hobby, interest or skill in the future.

Top tips

You can earn more than one Hobbies Badge.

A hobby is an activity done regularly in leisure time for enjoyment.

GLOBAL ISSUES

This badge links to the Global Goals that children, adults and governments all over the world are trying to achieve to make the world a better place. By doing this badge and learning about important global issues, you can play your part in helping to change the world.

How to earn your badge

1. Find out about an international charity; what do they do and why is it important? Your chosen charity could support global issues such as water and sanitation, poverty, refugees and disaster relief.
2. Monitor the waste you produce as a Cub Pack and make a plan to reduce, reuse and recycle your Pack's waste.
3. Take part in an international awareness day or week.
4. Think about what you would need to survive if you became homeless because of a disaster, like flooding or an earthquake. Decide what your five most important things would be and discuss with your Cub Pack.
5. Identify five belongings of yours that have come from other countries. Point out the countries on a map. Talk to others about why your belongings have come from so far away.

Top tips

- For number 1, you could invite a guest speaker to your Group to tell you about an international charity. For example WaterAid and Volunteer Services Overseas have local speaker networks that could come and visit.
- For number 3, you could take part in World Water Day (March), Refugee Week (June), World Environment Day (June) or World Toilet Day (October). You can find more information on the United Nations website.

INTERNATIONAL

Would you like to explore the world? Kickstart your international adventure by getting to know other countries and cultures.

How to earn your badge

1. Draw or create the World Scout Badge. Explain the meaning of each of its parts and talk about the advantages of being part of a global movement of Cub Scouts.
2. Make, build or draw something to represent a country. Include things like its currency, national dress, cultures, customs and languages.
3. Explore another country's traditions and culture around food and eating. What time do they eat? How do they eat? How do they sit? What do they eat?
4. Take part in the activities of a celebration or festival that usually takes place in another country. Explore why the celebration or festival happens. What are the customs of the event?

Top tips

For number 4, visiting a festival or holding a celebration as part of a Pack evening or Scouting event would be good. The festivals Mela, Holi, Mardi Gras and Chinese New Year are good examples

PHOTOGRAPHER

Learn to capture some amazing images of people and places, and hang them proudly on your wall.

How to earn your badge

1. Show that you know how to use and look after a digital camera or smartphone camera. Show how to change the mode, change the settings, use the zoom function, and transfer photos to another device.
2. Take at least five photos of your local area that could be used on a tourist leaflet or website.
3. Take photos while you're on a trip, camp or another event. Show 10 of your best photos to someone else after the event. You could present them in a scrapbook, on a screen, in a photo book or some other way.
4. Choose one of these activities to do:
 - Create two photos of the same thing, one in colour and one in black and white. Compare how the effects change the way the final picture looks.
 - Make a short film on a subject of your choice.
 - Using a series of photos, make a short animation sequence.
 - Edit a photo using a smartphone or editing software. Explain what you have changed and why.

SKATER

Find your balance and get confident on wheels or blades. You'll be skating effortlessly before you know it.

How to earn your badge

1. Use a skateboard, scooter, or in-line, quad or ice skates, on at least three occasions.
2. Learn some safety rules about skating on the road and in other public places. Show what clothing and protective equipment you need to wear for your activity. You might include helmets, knee pads or elbow pads.
3. Show how to start, stop and turn safely.
4. Show how to fall safely and regain balance.
5. Show how you do three different manoeuvres. You could demonstrate travelling backwards, spinning, jumping or turning.

SPORTS ENTHUSIAST

If you love sport but follow it rather than play it, show off your expert knowledge.

How to earn your badge

1. Follow your chosen sport for at least three months.
2. Find out the rules of the sport. Explain them to an adult.
3. Show you have a good knowledge of the teams and/or personalities in your chosen sport.
4. Explain what equipment is needed for the sport.
5. List some major events for the sport of your choice.
6. Describe events that you have attended for your chosen sport. If you haven't been to an event, explain to your leader how you keep up-to-date with your sport.

SCIENTIST

From animals to minerals to the molecules travelling through the air – we use science to find out about the universe around us. So pop on your safety goggles and get experimenting.

How to earn your badge

Do six science activities. You should choose at least one from each of these sections.

For each one, explain or show your leader what you did and what you found out.

Section 1: reactions

- Show how vinegar reacts with different items and explain what happens. The different items could be steel wool, sodium bicarbonate or old dirty coins.
- Find out what happens when you add salt to water.
- Compare the density of water to the density of other liquids. Show how these liquids react to each other.
- Make a pH indicator solution. Use it to test the acidity or alkalinity of other liquids.
- Grow crystals.
- Another activity agreed with your leader

Section 2: interacting with energy

- Create a basic electrical circuit that includes a switch. Show how it could be used to control a lightbulb powered by a battery.
- Make an air-powered balloon rocket or a water rocket. Investigate ways of improving how far it can travel.
- Make a simple compass. Show the effects of metallic and magnetic materials upon it.
- Use marshmallows and spaghetti to build the strongest tower you can. Explain how you improved your design.
- Find a way to show that hot air rises.
- Another activity agreed with your leader

Section 3: living things

- Set up a wormery or ant colony. Record what happens over three or four weeks
- Investigate what happens to your pulse rate before, during and after exercise.
- Grow cress, beans, peas or a similar plant. Investigate what happens when the plant has no access to light. What happens when it has light, but no water?
- Find a way to show that plants take water up through their stems.
- Make some yoghurt and find out how living organisms are involved in the process.
- Another activity agreed with your leader

SNOWSPORTS (NEW)

Snowsports - stage 1

How to earn your badge

1. Identify different types of snowsports.
2. Name three places you could safely take part in snowsport activities.
3. Take part in a warm up activity to prepare you for a snowsport activity such as skiing or snowboarding. This should be an appropriate warm up for your upper, middle and lower body.
4. Dress properly for your chosen activity. Show you know the importance of helmets and how to put one on correctly.
5. Take part in a taster session that covers:
 - naming equipment used
 - how to get in and out of your skis or snowboard
 - balancing on your skis or snowboard
 - moving around on your skis or snowboard; including moving in a straight line, controlling your speed and stopping.

Top tips

You can do most of these steps without actually taking part in a snowsport activity on either a natural or artificial slope. But we think it's best to do them as part of a practical activity.

Your leader should be able to find lots of support on the National Governing Body websites for Snowsport England, Snowsport Scotland and Snowsport Cymru Wales.

More support for disability snowsports can be found on the Disability Snowsport UK website.

Snowsports - stage 2

How to earn your badge

Before you attempt Stage 2, you need to have completed all the steps for Snowsports Stage 1. You then need to complete all the steps outlined below.

1. Identify the equipment you require and know how to carry it safely.
2. Climb and then ski or snowboard down a short run, or go on a short cross country ski.
3. Show you can make wide and narrow turns.
4. Show you can stop and wait safely on a run avoiding other users of the slope, or stop safely if doing cross country skiing.
5. Demonstrate how to safely use a drag lift or magic carpet for downhill skiing or snowboarding.
6. Know how to safely fall and get back up onto your feet.

Top tips

You can do most of these steps on either a natural or artificial slope. This badge can be completed doing cross country skiing as the activity, in which case element 5 should be replaced with the ability to identify a suitable route.

Your leader should be able to find lots of support on the National Governing Body websites for Snowsport England, Snowsport Scotland and Snowsport Cymru Wales.

More support for disability snowsports can be found on the Disability Snowsport UK website.

Snowsports - stage 3

How to earn your badge

Before you attempt Stage 3, you need to have completed all the steps for Snowsports Stage 2. You then need to complete the following:

1. Identify hazards of the mountain environment.
2. Show you understand what to do in the event of an accident.
3. Show you know and understand the 'Ski Way Code' published by the International Ski Federation (The F.I.S.)
4. Understand the effects of extreme temperature in cases of frostbite, hypothermia, sunstroke, heat exhaustion and dehydration. Explain how they are avoided and treated.
5. Choose and complete two of the following:
 - Demonstrate a sequence of 10 linked turns
 - Complete a free run down a moderate to hard slope (red) showing balance, control, good choice of line and awareness of other people on the slope
 - Complete a 3km cross country ski route on a prepared track
 - Complete a 500m cross country ski route on varied terrain

If you have achieved The Scout Association Personal Activity Permit for Snowsports, you can automatically gain this badge.

The safety rules in chapter nine of Policy Organisation and Rules and the Adventurous Activity Permit Scheme apply when you're attempting this badge.

Snowsports - stage 4

How to earn your badge

Before you attempt Stage 4, you need to have completed all the requirements to gain Snowsports Stage 3 in your chosen discipline.

You then need to complete the following:

1. Show you understand what equipment to carry for the different two types of activity you may undertake (a single lesson, day on the hill, expedition in the woods, off-piste experience, session at a snow park)
2. Show how to look after yourself and others in the event of not being able to return down the mountain, or being stranded on a route
3. Show your ability to use a ski map or resort map and identify where you are on the map
4. Plan a half days activity, considering location, group, equipment and abilities, this should include a plan B in case of bad weather, etc.
5. Participate in a snowsport activity different from that which the other requirements have been completed in, this could be something completely new or an activity you've not done for a while such as skiing, snowboarding, cross country skiing, ski touring and slalom
6. Choose and complete two of the following:
 - Demonstrate your ability to safely descend a black run
 - Perform a sequence of turns in fresh snow, leaving even tracks behind
 - Complete a day's cross country ski trip, planning your route before you go
 - Complete a cross country timed route and then improve your time over a two further attempts

You can do this stage by taking part in a snowsport activity on either a natural or artificial slope. But it is encouraged to experience both environments as part of this badge.

OUR WORLD

Get to know the people, places and nature around you. Explore the world we share and earn this badge.

How to earn your award

1. Create a community map. What services are there? Where are they? Who are they for? Try and visit one of these services if possible.
2. As a Pack, identify and complete an activity that benefits your local community. How did it help others? How did the activity help you? What could you do next?
3. Take part in an act of worship, reflection or celebration.
4. Find out about a faith or culture you are not familiar with. You could visit a place of worship or a cultural centre in your local community.
5. Talk about a time when you did your best. Explain how you have kept your Cub Promise and the Law.
6. Take part in an activity about the environment.
7. Play a game that Cubs play in another country and learn their Promise.
8. Celebrate a festival from another country or culture. You could celebrate Holi with a colour party, Brazilian carnival by making masks, or Diwali by making ginger laddoo sweets.