AMERICAN LABOR MERIT BADGE WORK SHEET
BYU MERIT BADGE POWWOW

Scout’s Name

Instructor’s Name

Scout’s Address

City

State

ZIP

Instructions

1) The Scout is to review the merit badge book before the first week of PowWow.
2) Bring this work sheet, paper, and pencil or pen each week.

Requirement Instructions*

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* Due to possible time constraints at the PowWow, certain requirements that were originally planned to be completed in class may need to be completed as homework. Please listen to all instructions in class to be aware of any changes.

Requirement 1

Using resources available to you, learn about working people and work-related concerns. List and briefly describe or give examples of at least EIGHT concerns of American workers. These may include, but are not limited to, working conditions, workplace safety, hours, wages, seniority, job security, equal-opportunity employment and discrimination, guest workers, automation and technologies that replace workers, unemployment, layoffs, outsourcing, and employee benefits such as health care, child care, profit sharing, and retirement benefits.

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Requirement 2

With your counselor’s and parent’s approval and permission, visit the office or attend a meeting of a local union, a central labor council, or an employee organization, or contact one of these organizations via the Internet. Then do EACH of the following:

- Find out and explain what the organization does.

- Share the list of issues and concerns you made for requirement 1. Ask the people you communicate with which issues are of greatest interest or concern to them and why. Describe their response.

- Draw a diagram showing how the organization is structured, from the local to the national level, if applicable.

Requirement 3

Describe what labor unions are, what they do, and what services they provide to members.

Explain the following concepts with your description:

Labor

Management

Collective bargaining

Negotiation

Union shops

Open (nonunion) shops

Grievance procedures

Mediation

Arbitration

Work stoppages

Strikes

Lockouts
**Requirement 4**

Initial

Explain what is meant by the adversarial model of labor-management relations, compared with a cooperative bargaining style.

**Requirement 5**

Initial

Do ONE of the following:

a. Develop a timeline of significant events in the history of the American labor movement from the 1770s to the present.

b. Prepare an exhibit, a scrapbook, or a computer presentation, such as a slide show, illustrating three major achievements of the American labor movement and how those achievements affect American workers.

c. With your counselor’s and parent’s approval and permission, watch a movie that addresses organized labor in the United States. Afterward, discuss the movie with your counselor and explain what you learned.

d. Read a biography (with your counselor’s approval) of someone who has made a contribution to the American labor movement. Explain what contribution this person has made to the American labor movement.

**Requirement 6**

Initial

Explain the term globalization.

Explain some effects of globalization on the workforce in the United States.

Explain how this global workforce fits into the economic system of this country.

**Requirement 7**

Initial

Choose a labor issue of widespread interest to American workers—an issue in the news currently or known to you from your work on this merit badge. Before your counselor, in writing, argue both sides of the issue, first taking management’s side, then presenting labor’s or the employee’s point of view. In your presentation, summarize the basic rights and responsibilities of employers and employees, including union members and nonunion members.

Management’s side:

Labor’s or the employee’s side:

**Requirement 8**

Initial
Discuss with your counselor the different goals that may motivate the following people:

The owners of a business:

Stockholders:

Customers:

Employees:

Employees’ representatives:

Community:

Public officials:

Explain why agreements and compromises are made and how they affect each group in achieving its goals.

**Requirement 9**

Learn about opportunities in the field of labor relations. Choose one career in which you are interested and discuss with your counselor the major responsibilities of that position. Describe those responsibilities:

What qualifications, education, and training are required for such a position?
Merit badge work sheets will not be accepted at the Council Office in place of the official Merit Badge Application Card. Those who do not complete all the requirements should take their partially completed merit badge work sheet and their official application card to their local merit badge counselors for completion.