

Computers Merit Badge

Instructor: Seth Price (Email: seth@pricepages.org; AIM: [s_price@mac.com](aim:s_price@mac.com); Phone: 260-2687)

First assignment: (01/10/05)

Send me an email. This is so I know where I can contact you and so you fill requirement 5b. If you don't have an email address, you can easily get a free one from hotmail.com or yahoo.com. If you need a connection to the Internet you can use a school or library's computers. If you have problems, talk to me.

Requirements:

1. Give a short history of computers. Describe the major parts of a computer system. Give four different uses of computers.
2. Do the following:
 - a. Tell what a program is and how it is developed.
 - b. Give three examples of programming languages and what types of programming they are used for.
 - c. Describe a source program and an object program.
3. Show how the following may be stored in computer memory: text, numbers, pictures, and sound.
4. Do THREE of the following:
 - a. Use a database manager to create a troop roster, providing name, rank, patrol, and telephone number of each Scout. Sort the register by rank, by patrol, and alphabetically by name.
 - b. Use a spreadsheet program to develop a weekend campout food budget for your patrol.
 - d. Use a word processor to write a letter to parents of your troop's Scouts, inviting them to a court of honor. Use the mail merge feature to make a personalized copy of the letter for each family.
 - c. Use a computer graphics program to design and draw a campsite plan for your troop.
5. Do TWO of the following:
 - a. Visit a business or industry that uses computers. Study what the computer accomplishes and be prepared to discuss what you observed.
 - b. Use a computer attached to a local area network or equipped with a modem to connect to a computer network or bulletin-board service such as Prodigy, CompuServe, or America Online. Send a message to someone on the network or download a program or file from the network.
 - d. Use a general-purpose programming language to write a program application of your choice, subject to approval by your counselor.
6. Be prepared to discuss several terms used in each of the following categories:
 - a. Input/output devices
 - b. Storage media
 - c. Memory
 - d. Processors and coprocessors
 - e. Modems
 - f. Networks
 - d. Electronic mail
 - h. Robotics
7. Be prepared to discuss various jobs in the computer field.
8. Is it permissible to accept a free copy of a computer game or program from a friend? Why or why not?
9. Describe several ways in which you and your family could use a personal computer other than for games and recreation.