



# Ranger Award Cave Exploration



## Elective Requirements Checklist

This Checklist can help you document your progress as you work toward earning the award.  
The Venturer must do each requirement.

No one may add or subtract from the official requirements found in [Venturing Awards and Requirements](#)  
The requirements were last revised in 2014 • This workbook was updated in November 2016.

Venturer's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

<http://www.USScouts.Org> • <http://www.MeritBadge.Org>

Please submit errors, omissions, comments or suggestions about this **checklist** to: [Workbooks@USScouts.Org](mailto:Workbooks@USScouts.Org)  
Comments or suggestions for changes to the **requirements** for the **award** should be sent to: [Advancement.Team@Scouting.Org](mailto:Advancement.Team@Scouting.Org)

- a. Learn about caving
  - i. Write the National Speleological Society (NSS) to request information about caving and information about caves and cavers near you.
  - ii. Learn about the different types of caves
  - iii. Learn about caving courtesy, caving do's and don'ts, and what the BSA policy is on cave exploring.
  - iv. Read at least one book about caving.
- b. Knots
  - i. Learn the following knots used in caving:
 

Endline knots:	Joiner knots:
<input type="checkbox"/> bowline,	<input type="checkbox"/> water knot,
<input type="checkbox"/> figure eight,	<input type="checkbox"/> fisherman,
<input type="checkbox"/> figure eight on a bight	<input type="checkbox"/> figure eight on bend
Midline knots:	Ascending knots:
<input type="checkbox"/> bowline on a bight	<input type="checkbox"/> Prusik knot
<input type="checkbox"/> butterfly	
  - ii. Teach these knots to your crew, another crew, a Cub Scout or Boy Scout unit, or another group.
- c. Ropes
  - i. Learn about the different types of ropes available for climbing and caving and explain the uses of each and the characteristics of each.
  - ii. Learn proper climbing rope care. Know and practice proper coding and storage.
  - iii. Now how to keep proper records on climbing rope and how to inspect it for wear and damage. Know when to retire a rope.
  - iv. Using the knowledge acquired above, make a tabletop display or a presentation for your crew, another crew, a Cub Scout or Boy Scout unit, or another group.
- d. Rappelling and belaying
  - i. Demonstrate that you know how to properly and safely rappel a distance of at least 30 feet.
  - ii. Demonstrate that you know how to ascend a rope using mechanical ascenders or Prusik or other ascending knots. Ascend at least 30 feet.

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- iii. Know and explain the differences, advantages, and disadvantages of single rope (SRT) and double rope (DRT) for rappelling and belaying.
- iv. Learn how to properly pack and carry a backpacking stove and fuel.
- e. Outfitting
  - i. Visit a sporting goods store or NSS-affiliated organization or have them make a presentation to your crew so you can learn about personal caving gear, including helmets, light sources, backup lighting sources, clothing, boots, cave packs, etc.
  - ii. Find out what the American National Standards Institute requirements are for helmets.
- f. First aid
  - i. Make a list of what you need in your personal cave pack. Include your personal first aid kit and cave survival gear.
  - ii. Learn what crew equipment is, including a first aid kit, caving ropes, and ascending equipment.
  - iii. Help make a first aid kit for your crew or group and demonstrate that you can keep it up.
  - iv. Demonstrate to your crew, another crew, a Cub Scout or Boy Scout unit, or another group how to construct both a personal and crew first aid kit.
- g. Caves
  - i. Learn about the many types of cave formations.
  - ii. Make a tabletop display or presentation on cave formations and caving conservation for your crew, another crew, a Cub Scout or Boy Scout unit, or another group. Include practices such as proper carbide removal; care of walls, ceiling, and formations; and principles of Leave No Trace.
- h. Find a cave you would like to visit; get permission to enter it; make a trip plan including cave location, a list of participants, expected time in the cave, expected date and time of return, and an emergency contact; and then go in the cave, led by a qualified caver
- i. From a cave expert, learn about natural and fabricated hazards such as mudslides, loose rocks, pits, deep water, critters, complex routes, wooden ladders, and flooding.
- j. Maps
  - i. Using a three-dimensional cave map, learn what the standard map symbols represent.
  - ii. Using the knowledge above, make a tabletop display or presentation for your crew, another crew, a Cub Scout or Boy Scout unit, or another group.

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### Important excerpts from the Guide To Advancement - 2015, No. 33088 (SKU-620573)

**[1.0.0.0] — Introduction**

The current edition of the *Guide to Advancement* is the official source for administering advancement in all Boy Scouts of America programs: Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, Varsity Scouting, Venturing, and Sea Scouts. It replaces any previous BSA advancement manuals and previous editions of the *Guide to Advancement*.

**[Page 2, and 5.0.1.4] — Policy on Unauthorized Changes to Advancement Program**

**No council, committee, district, unit, or individual has the authority to add to, or subtract from, advancement requirements.** There are limited exceptions relating only to youth members with special needs. For details see section 10, "Advancement for Members With Special Needs".

**[Page 2] — The "Guide to Safe Scouting" Applies**

Policies and procedures outlined in the *Guide to Safe Scouting*, No. 34416, apply to all BSA activities, including those related to advancement and Eagle Scout service projects.