

HOW TO PRINT THESE PAGES TO FIT YOUR MERIT BADGE BINDER

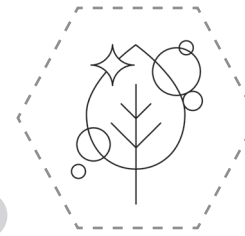
Print this document with duplex settings (front & back).

Print it with top-to-top settings (printer flips the page on the short edge).

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CLEANING UP Staying Green

Please note, in order to apply for any level of this badge, you must have earned all three levels of the Going Green Merit Badge in Cleaning Up.

Beginner

- Continue to practice and reinforce the habits developed while earning the “Going Green” Merit Badge for at least three months.
- Keep note of what is easy to maintain and any difficulties you encounter.

Intermediate

- Dive deeper into researching homemade “green” cleaners and home products. Is there anything missing from your collection of recipes? What have you used in the past? Were you happy with the results, or would experimenting with a new recipe be worthwhile? Look to published resources on the topic of homemade home products, such as *Natural Solutions for Cleaning & Wellness* by Halle Cottis. (This book is available on loan from MaryJanesFarm; contact library@maryjanesfarm.org.)
- Write down your favorite recipes and develop a system for safely storing your homemade cleaners and home products.
- Stock up on the basic ingredients you need on hand to make your favorite recipes as needed. Some examples include vinegar, distilled water, baking soda, washing soda, citric acid, castile soap, your favorite essential oils, etc. If you already have this, help a friend out by sharing your favorite recipes and a list of must-have basic ingredients.

Expert

- By now, thanks to your hard work, elbow grease, and a gentle nudge from the “Going Green” Merit Badge, you’re a pro at hang-drying clothes and your walls and carpets (if applicable) aren’t emitting volatile organic compounds. However, a farmgirl’s work is never quite finished. Conduct an audit to identify areas in your home that could use some additional “greening up.”
- Make a list of your top three areas in need of improvement (for example, think of ways to cut down on your electric usage by swapping out lightbulbs or replacing inefficient appliances or installing an air purifier

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CLEANING UP Path to Zero Waste

Beginner

- Research zero-waste living. Here's a great introduction to the concept: <https://trashisfortossers.com/a-beginners-guide-to-zero-waste-living-ps-it-doesnt-happen-overnight>
- Find out what a waste audit is and why you should perform one to start your path to zero waste. Here's a general overview: <https://discardstudies.com/2016/02/21/how-to-do-a-household-waste-audit-and-why/>

Intermediate

- Perform a waste audit to identify the areas of your life where you produce more waste: https://ecorise.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/7_8_Wst_M1_L2_Personal-Waste-EcoAudit-Worksheet.pdf
- Name three significant things you learned about your habits in your waste audit.
- Share something you learned that surprised you the most.

Expert

- Think of small, yet meaningful, ways you can reduce your waste and implement them into your daily routine. For example, instead of throwing away kitchen scraps, re-grow veggies, and think of ways to reuse or repurpose things that would otherwise be disposed of.
- Research how to compost, and why it's an easy and substantial way to reduce waste.* Is composting something you could easily fit into your lifestyle? If you lack outside space, see if there is a community compost in your area. Research ways to keep your compost from smelling and how to use your compost.

*For a complete immersion into composting, see the Gaining Ground Merit Badge in Garden Gate.



EACH OTHER International Civics Challenge

Research a government other than the United States and learn the answers to the following questions:

Beginner Level

- What is the current form of government of this nation?
- What is the general structure of the government (for example, does it have individual governing entities at localized levels, or is it one governing body)?
- Identify the basic doctrines and ruling bodies of this government.
- What is the economic system in this government and who are its international trade partners?

Intermediate Level

- Identify the major parts of this government and how they work together.
- Are there elected officials? If so, identify the primary positions and their term lengths.
- How are laws created in this government?
- How are laws enforced in this government?

Expert Level

- When was this government established?
- How does this government view individual rights and civil issues?
- What were the significant historical events that led to the institution of this government?
- What forms of government existed before the current government?





FARM KITCHEN

Kitchen Renegade

For this badge, you get to choose your own kitchen adventure! What have you always wanted to try? Wine making? Home brewing? Perfecting pickled vegetables? Growing culinary mushrooms? No matter how fringe, obscure, or specific, this is the place for all your ambitious kitchen endeavors.

Beginner

- Every kitchen maven knows that when it comes to food processing, safety always comes first. Once you've chosen your latest culinary adventure, start by thinking safety. What are the most common food-safety concerns surrounding your project?
- What are the best sanitary practices relating to your project?
- What other steps will you take to ensure the safety of your finished project?

Intermediate

- Make a list of any equipment you'll need to get started and gather it up.
- What are you waiting for?! Dive in and be sure to keep detailed notes along the way. These will prove to be an invaluable resource when you're trying to replicate a result or trying to troubleshoot something.
- Sample the results of your first trial. Are you happy with how it turned out? What did you learn in the process? Is there anything you would do differently next time?

Expert

- If you were unhappy with your first trial, rework the recipe or process until you have it just right.
 - Now, use your creation in a recipe! For example, if you made wine, create a marinade or cream sauce. Grew culinary mushrooms? Share your favorite way to use them.
 - Flex your photography muscle, snap a picture, and include it on your application.
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GARDEN GATE

Water Management

Beginner

- Research the benefits of planting native plants and list three you could add to your garden.
- Identify the type of soil you have and how this affects your watering practices.
- Research the best times to water to minimize water loss.
- What is deep watering? Is this something that would work for your garden?

Intermediate

- Research soil quality and its effect on water absorption and retention. Name two ways you can improve your soil quality.
- Why is mulching your garden integral to soil water retention? Which materials are best for mulching?
- Which ground covers are best for your area/soil type for water retention?

Expert

- Why are drip lines an efficient way to water? Is this something that could fit into your garden landscape?
 - Research the various rain/runoff water-collection and/or water-redirection methods. Would any of these methods work for your space?
 - Finally, choose at least three of the methods researched in any level of this badge and use them to better manage and reduce your garden water consumption.
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MAKE IT EASY

Macrame

Beginner

- If you don't know how to macrame, learn! Choose a simple project to start, such as macrame feathers, a plant hanger, or a keychain.
- Research the different types of rope and cording and choose the best type for your beginner project.
- Research the knots you'll need to use for your project and learn how to tie each.
- Finish your project. There is a three-hour minimum time investment required.
- If you already know how to macrame, teach someone else how to make a simple project.

Intermediate

- Research commonly used knots that you didn't learn in your beginner project. Some examples are the lark's-head knot, half-hitch knot, right and left half-square knots, square knot, and gathering knot. Learn how to tie each.
- Start and finish an intermediate macrame project, such as a small wall hanging, fruit hammock, coasters, or some simple jewelry.
- A 10-hour time investment is required.

Expert

- Start and finish a project of expert level, such as an embellished or intricately patterned wall hanging, set of tote bags, or for the ambitious expert, a hammock or outdoor chair.
 - A 25-hour time investment is required.
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CLEANING UP

Leave It Better Than You Found It

Beginner

- Why is stewardship of the Earth important to you?
- Why is it important to keep our highways, public places, and outdoor recreational areas litter free?
- What adverse effects can the presence of litter have on the environment and wildlife? Tell us about these problems in three different areas of our world, such as roads, nature, waterways, urban spaces, etc.

Intermediate

- Make a point to remove litter from public places whenever you can, especially if it's not your trash. This is our Earth, and as such, we need to be mindful of waste—even if we didn't contribute to it directly.
- Pair litter cleanup with conscious waste removal practices by ensuring collected waste is disposed of properly (recycling, composting, landfill).
- To earn the intermediate-level badge, do this on five separate occasions.

Expert

- Research ways you can get involved in your community's efforts to control littering.
 - Host a hour-long litter removal get-together within your community, a popular outdoor recreational area, or along a highway. (If attempting this level during the COVID-19 pandemic, this step can be achieved by hosting a litter removal with members of your household, or by accomplishing two litter removal events by yourself.)
 - Research the Great Pacific Garbage Patch and the controversy of why it hasn't been cleaned up.
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