



FINGERPRINTING

Merit Badge Requirements

- 1) Give a short history of fingerprinting. Tell the difference between civil and criminal identification.
- 2) Explain the difference between the automated fingerprint identification systems (AFIA) now used by some law enforcement agencies and the biometric fingerprint systems used to control access to places like buildings, airports, and computer rooms.
- 3) Do the following:
 - A) Name the surfaces of the body where friction or papillary ridges are found.
 - B) Name the two basic principles supporting the science of fingerprints and give a brief explanation of each principle.
 - C) Explain what it takes to positively identify a person using fingerprints.
- 4) Take a clear set of prints using ONE of the following methods:
 - A) Make both rolled and plain impressions. Make these on an 8-by-8-inch fingerprint identification card available from your local police department or counselor.
 - B) Using clear adhesive tape, a pencil, and plain paper, record your own fingerprints or those of another person.
- 5) Show your merit badge counselor you can identify the three basic types of fingerprint patterns and their subcategories. Using your own hand, identify the types of patterns you see.

Worksheet Created by: Rob Greenland – robgreenland@juno.com

*** You can download and print a free Fingerprint Card (EXCEL file) for use in the Fingerprinting Merit Badge or for child identification, which was developed by [Darrell Bartels](#) ASM, Troop 12, New Albany, IN by [clicking here](#).*

Requirement 3

Name the surfaces of the body where friction or papillary ridges are found:

On the _____ surfaces of the _____ and on the _____ surfaces of the _____.

Name the two basic principles supporting the science of fingerprints and give a brief explanation of each principle.

Principle 1: _____

Explanation: _____

Principle 2: _____

Explanation: _____

Explain what it takes to positively identify a person using fingerprints: _____

Requirement 4

You have been given two options for this requirement. Select and complete one of them.

If you selected *Option A*:

Obtain some 8x8 fingerprint identification cards from your counselor or your local police department.

___ Using your fingerprint identification cards, take a clear set of prints using rolled impressions. Attach these impressions to this worksheet and show them to your counselor.

___ Using your fingerprint identification cards, take a clear set of prints using plain impressions. Attach these impressions to this worksheet and show them to your counselor.

If you selected *Option B*:

Using clear adhesive tape, a pencil, and plain paper, record your own fingerprints or those of another person. Attach these fingerprints to this worksheet and show them to your counselor.

Scout Name: _____ Unit #: _____ Date: _____

Requirement 5

Show your merit badge counselor you can identify the three basic types of fingerprint patterns and their subcategories.

___ Have your counselor initial here after you have done this.

Using your own hand, identify the types of patterns you see.

___ Have your counselor initial here after you have done this.