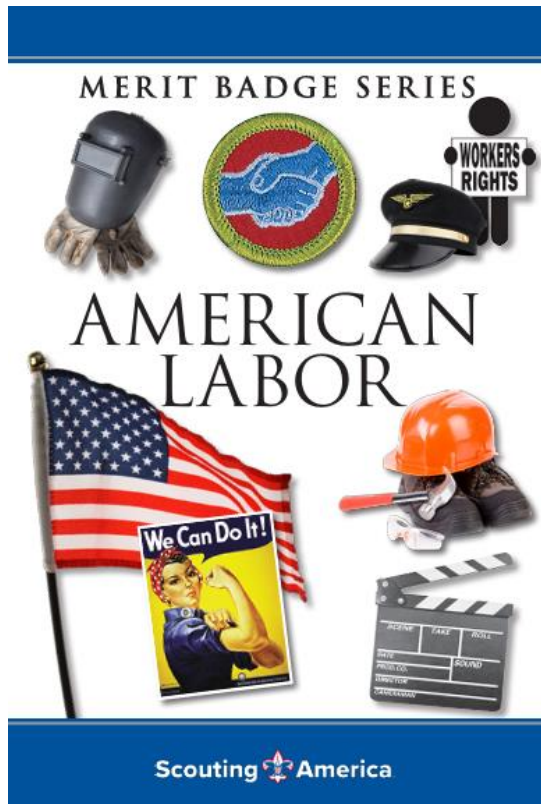




American Labor Merit Badge

Saturday, Feb 7th at the Church

Merit Badge Counselor: ASM Gandy and Mr. Bertrand



POC Mr. Robert Bertrand: cell: 910.9160755

American Labor MB

Scheme of Maneuver



Saturday, Feb 7th at the Church

0830-0930: Req # 1 & 3:

0930-1100: Req #5: watch movie '*Newies* - Disney'

1100-1200: Req's #4 & 6

1200-1230: *Lunch: Scout Lead: Sandwich line...*

1230-1300: Req 7: Guest Speaker: Unionist Ms. Lindquist

1400-1500: Req #2: Guest Speaker IAW: CAPT Gandy, Labor Unions

1500-1600: Req 8

American Labor MB



Requirement #5: Watch a Labor Movie and discuss:

- ***Newsies* (1992):** A Disney musical loosely based on the real-life 1899 newsboy strike in New York City. It's a spirited and accessible entry point for younger scouts, featuring music and an energetic story about young workers standing up to powerful publishers for fair wages.

Recommended Viewing for Everyone before Saturday's dialogs.

Best Titans of Wall Street for Scouts; *YouTube or Netflix*

•Episode 2: Railroad Rivalry (~50 min)

•**Focus:** Early titans like [J.P. Morgan](#) & [Cornelius Vanderbilt](#) building massive industries, but also the harsh conditions and violent strikes (like [Great Railroad Strike of 1877](#)) that highlight early labor issues and management's power.

•**Scout Connection:** Shows the birth of big business, the fight for fair wages/conditions, and how management/labor conflict shaped America.

•Episode 6: FDR vs. The Titans (~50 min)

•**Focus:** The Great Depression's impact, how titans like [Joe Kennedy](#) navigated it, and [FDR's New Deal](#) fundamentally changed America's economic rules, introducing social security, labor protections (Wagner Act), and shifting power from Wall Street to government/workers.

•**Scout Connection:** Demonstrates government's role in balancing big business with public welfare, the rise of worker rights, and the evolution of the modern social contract.

Both show the dramatic evolution: from unchecked power (Ep 2) to regulation and worker empowerment (Ep 6).

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, continuing education, and retirement benefits.

2. With your counselor's and parent or guardian'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 the following:

- (a) Find out what the organization does.
- (b) 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.
- (c) Draw a diagram showing how the organization is structured, from the local to the national level, if applicable.

3. Explain to your counselor what labor unions are, what they do, and what services they provide to members. In your discussion, show that you understand the concepts of labor, management, collective bargaining, negotiation, union shops, open shops, grievance procedures, mediation, arbitration, work stoppages, strikes, and lockouts.

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

5. Do ONE of the following:

- (a) Develop a time line 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 or guardian'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.

6. Explain the term *globalization*. Discuss with your counselor some effects of globalization on the workforce in the United States. Explain how this global workforce fits into the economic system of this country.

7. 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, or 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.

8. Discuss with your counselor the different goals that may motivate the owners of a business, its stockholders, its customers, its employees, the employees' representatives, the community, and public officials. Explain why agreements and compromises are made and how they affect each group in achieving its goals.

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 and the qualifications, education, and training such a position requires.

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: a) health care, b) child care, c) profit sharing, d) continuing education, or e) retirement benefits.

1)

2)

3)

4)

5)

6)

7)

8)



2. With your counselor's and parent or guardian'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 the following:

- (a) Find out what the organization does.

- (b) 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.

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



3. Explain to your counselor what labor unions are, what they do, and what services they provide to members. In your discussion, show that you understand the concepts of labor, management, collective bargaining, negotiation, union shops, open shops, grievance procedures, mediation, arbitration, work stoppages, strikes, and lockouts.

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

Include in your discussions:

- *labor,*
- *management,*
- *collective bargaining,*
- *negotiation,*
- *union shops,*
- *open shops,*
- *grievance procedures,*
- *mediation,*
- *arbitration,*
- *work stoppages,*
- *strikes,*
- *lockouts.*



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

Adversarial model of labor-management relations:

Pro:

Con;

Cooperative-bargaining style:

Pro:

Con;



5. Do ONE of the following:

•(c) With your counselor's and parent or guardian'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.

As a Troop we will watch this movie as part of the MB:

- **Newsies (1992):** A Disney musical loosely based on the real-life 1899 newsboy strike in New York City. It's a spirited and accessible entry point for younger scouts, featuring music and an energetic story about young workers standing up to powerful publishers for fair wages.



6. Explain the term *globalization*.

Discuss with your counselor some effects of globalization on the workforce in the United States.

Pro:

Con;

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

Pro:

Con;



7. 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, or 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.

a) 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: _____

1. Management's side Comments:

2. labor's or the employee's point of view

3. Basic rights and responsibilities of employers

4. Basic Rights and responsibilities of employees,

a) including union members

b) and nonunion members.



8. Discuss with your counselor the different goals that may motivate the owners of a business, its stockholders, its customers, its employees, the employees' representatives, the community, and public officials. Explain why agreements and compromises are made and how they affect each group in achieving its goals.

Goals that may motivate:

1. Owners of a business,
2. Stockholders,
3. Customers,
4. Employees,
5. Employees' representatives,
6. The community,
7. Public officials



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

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 and the qualifications, education, and training such a position requires.

Choose one career in which you are interested: _____

1. Major responsibilities of that position
2. Qualifications,
3. Education,
4. Training such a position requires.

