



2024 Edition

SCOUTMASTER BUCKY

Signs, Signals, and Codes Merit Badge

SCOUTS PARTICIPATING IN A SCOUTMASTER BUCKY MERIT BADGE OPPORTUNITY (ONLINE OR IN PERSON), PLEASE CONSIDER ALSO USING THE SIGNS, SIGNALS, AND CODES MERIT BADGE CLASS PREPARATION PAGE FOR CLARIFICATIONS, INSIGHTS, AND EXPECTATIONS.

<https://scoutmasterbucky.com/merit-badges/signs-signals-and-codes/class-prep/>

REQUIREMENT 1: Discuss with your counselor the importance of signs, signals, and codes.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 1: Discuss with your counselor why people need these different methods of communication.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 1: Briefly discuss the history and development of signs, signals, and codes.

Notes:



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REQUIREMENT 2: Explain the importance of signaling in emergency communications.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 2: Discuss with your counselor the types of emergency or distress signals one might use to attract airborne search-and-rescue personnel if lost in the outdoors or trying to summon assistance during a disaster.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 2: Illustrate these signaling examples by the use of photos or drawings.

Notes:



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A ● -

B - ● ● ●

C - ● - ●

D - ● ●

E ●

F ● ● - ●

G - - ●

H ● ● ● ●

I ● ●

J ● - - -

K - ● -

L ● - ● ●

M - -

N - ●

O - - -

P ● - - ●

Q - - ● -

R ● - ●

S ● ● ●

T -

U ● ● -

V ● ● ● -

W ● - -

X - ● ● -

Y - ● - -

Z - - ● ●

REQUIREMENT 3a: Describe what Morse code is.

Notes:



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REQUIREMENT 3a: Describe the various means by which Morse code can be sent.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 3a: Spell your first name using Morse code.

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.

Name:

REQUIREMENT 3a: Send or receive a message of six to 10 words using Morse code.

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.

Notes:



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A grid of 26 hand signs representing the alphabet from A to Z in American Sign Language. The signs are arranged in two rows: the first row contains A through M, and the second row contains N through Z. Each sign is a simple line drawing of a hand in a specific pose, with the corresponding letter printed below it.

REQUIREMENT 3b: Describe what American Sign Language (ASL) is

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 3b: Describe how American Sign Language (ASL) is used today.

Notes:



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REQUIREMENT 3b: Spell your first name using American Sign Language.

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.

Name:

REQUIREMENT 3b: Describe what American Sign Language (ASL) is and how it is used today. Spell your first name using American Sign Language. Send or receive a message of six to 10 words using ASL.

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.

Notes:





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A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P
Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X
Y	Z	error	end of word	answering sign	attention	numbers follow	

REQUIREMENT 4: Give your counselor a brief explanation about semaphore, why it is used, how it is used, and where it is used.

Notes:



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REQUIREMENT 4: Explain the difference between semaphore flags and nautical flags.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 4a: Spell your first name using semaphore.

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.

Name:

REQUIREMENT 4a: Send or receive a message of six to 10 words using semaphore.

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.

Notes:



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REQUIREMENT 4b: Using illustrations or photographs, identify 10 examples of nautical flags.



A-Alfa
Diver Down Keep Clear



B-Bravo
Dangerous Cargo



C-Charlie
Yes



D-Delta
Keep Clear



E-Echo
Altering Course to Starboard



F-Foxtrot
Disabled



G-Golf
Want a Pilot



H-Hotel
Pilot on Board



I-India
Altering Course to Port



J-Juliet
On Fire Keep Clear



K-Kilo
Desire to Communicate



L-Lima
Stop Instantly



M-Mike
I Am Stopped



N-November
No



O-Oscar
Man Overboard



P-Papa
About To Sail



Q-Quebec
Request Pratique



R-Romeo
Do Not Pass Ahead of Me



S-Sierra
Engines Going Astern



T-Tango
Keep Clear



U-Uniform
Standing Into Danger



V-Victor
Require Assistance



W-Whiskey
Require Medical Assistance



X-Xray
Stop Your Intention



Y-Yankee
Am Dragging Anchor



Z-Zulu
Require A Tug



0



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



1st Repeater



2nd Repeater



3rd Repeater



Code & Answering

REQUIREMENT 4b: Discuss the importance of nautical flags.

Notes:



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● ○	● ○	● ●	● ●	● ○	● ●	● ●	● ○	○ ●	○ ●	● ○	● ○	● ○	● ●
○ ○	● ○	○ ○	○ ●	○ ●	● ○	● ○	● ●	● ○	● ●	● ○	● ●	○ ○	● ○
○ ○	○ ○	○ ○	○ ○	○ ○	○ ○	○ ○	○ ○	○ ○	○ ○	○ ○	○ ○	● ○	● ○
A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	
● ●	● ○	● ●	● ●	● ○	○ ●	○ ●	● ○	● ○	○ ●	● ●	● ●	● ○	● ○
○ ●	○ ●	● ○	● ●	● ●	● ○	● ●	○ ○	● ○	● ●	○ ○	○ ●	○ ●	○ ●
● ○	● ○	● ○	● ○	● ○	● ○	● ○	● ○	● ●	● ●	○ ●	● ●	● ●	● ●
N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z	
○ ●	● ○	● ○	● ●	● ●	● ○	● ●	● ●	● ○	○ ●	○ ●	○ ●	○ ●	
○ ●	○ ○	● ○	○ ○	○ ○	○ ●	○ ●	● ○	● ●	● ●	● ○	● ●	● ●	
● ●	○ ○	○ ○	○ ○	○ ○	○ ○	○ ○	○ ○	○ ○	○ ○	○ ○	○ ○	○ ○	
#	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0			

REQUIREMENT 5: Explain the braille reading technique and how it helps individuals with sight impairment to communicate.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 5a: Either by sight or by touch, identify the letters of the braille alphabet that spell your name.

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.

Name:



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REQUIREMENT 5a: Either by sight or by touch, decode a braille message at least six words long.

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 5b: Create a message in braille at least six words long, and share this with your counselor.

To satisfy the braille writing requirement 5b for this merit badge, you do not need to emboss braille dots in thick paper. Rather, you may use a pencil or pen to draw the dots on ordinary paper, copying the characters of the braille alphabet to spell out your message letter by letter.

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.

Message:

Notes:



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REQUIREMENT 6a: Describe to your counselor six sound-only signals that are in use today.

Sound Signal #1:

Sound Signal #2:

Sound Signal #3:

Sound Signal #4:

Sound Signal #5:

Sound Signal #6:

REQUIREMENT 6a: Discuss the pros and cons of using sound signals versus other types of signals.

Pros

Cons

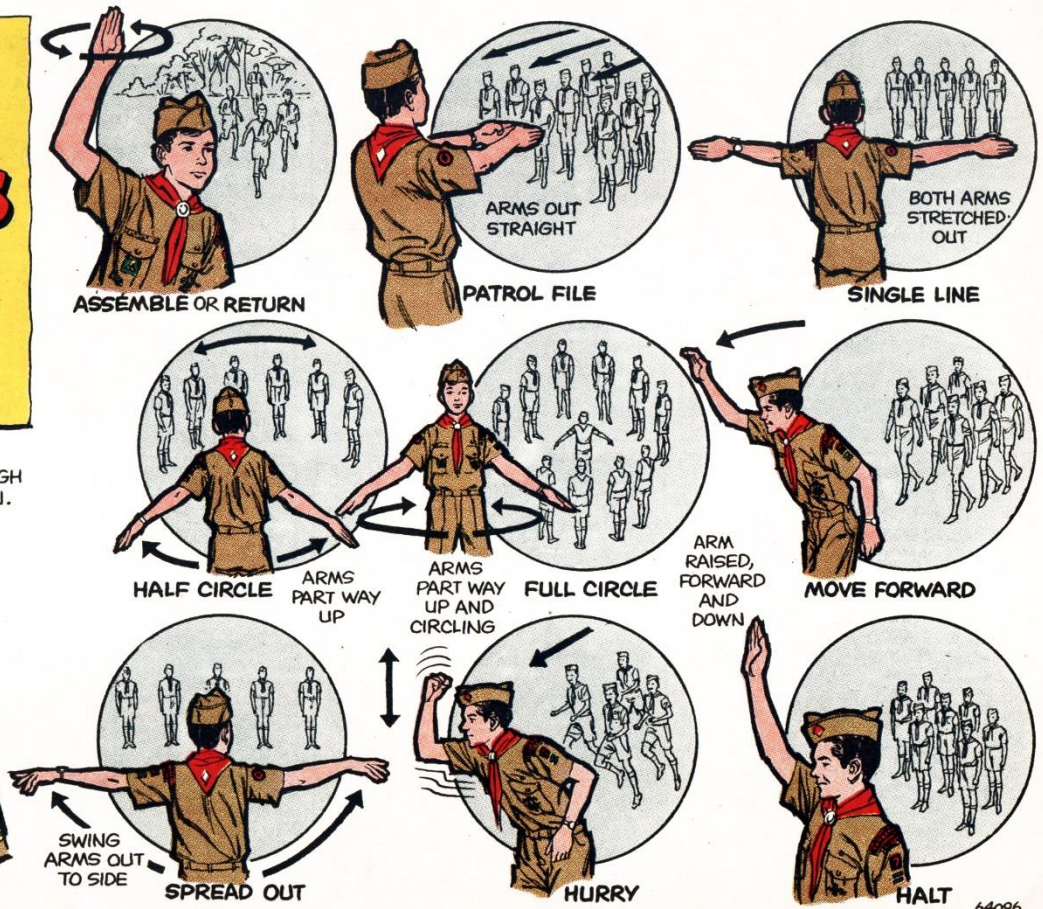


Silent Signals

USING THESE SILENT HAND SIGNALS IN CAMP, ON THE TRAIL, OR IN THE FIELD ARE THE MARK OF A WELL-ORGANIZED, WELL-TRAINED TROOP. LEARN THEM AND USE THEM AND YOUR TROOP WILL MOVE QUICKLY AND QUIETLY.

ATTENTION
HAND RAISED HIGH
IN SCOUT SIGN.

AT THIS MOST USED SIGNAL, EVERYONE STOPS TALKING AND WHATEVER HE'S DOING, RAISES HIS HAND THE SAME WAY AND WATCHES FOR THE FOLLOWING SIGNALS.



64096

Boys Life Magazine - 1964

REQUIREMENT 6b: Demonstrate to your counselor six different silent Scout signals. Use these Scout signals to direct the movements and actions of your patrol or troop.

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.

Notes:



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REQUIREMENT 7:

On a Scout outing, lay out a trail for your patrol or troop to follow. Cover at least one mile in distance and use at least six different trail signs and markers. After the Scouts have completed the trail, follow no-trace principles by replacing or returning trail markers to their original locations.

This requirement will be done during the class and must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.

If this requirement has been completed prior to the class, you will need to have an Adult Leader's sign off

Remember, this sign off is not a guarantee of completion, completion is at the discretion and satisfaction of the merit badge counselor.

Scout Outing:

Date and Location:

Notes:

Adult Leader's Name

Phone

Adult Leader's Signature

Date

completed



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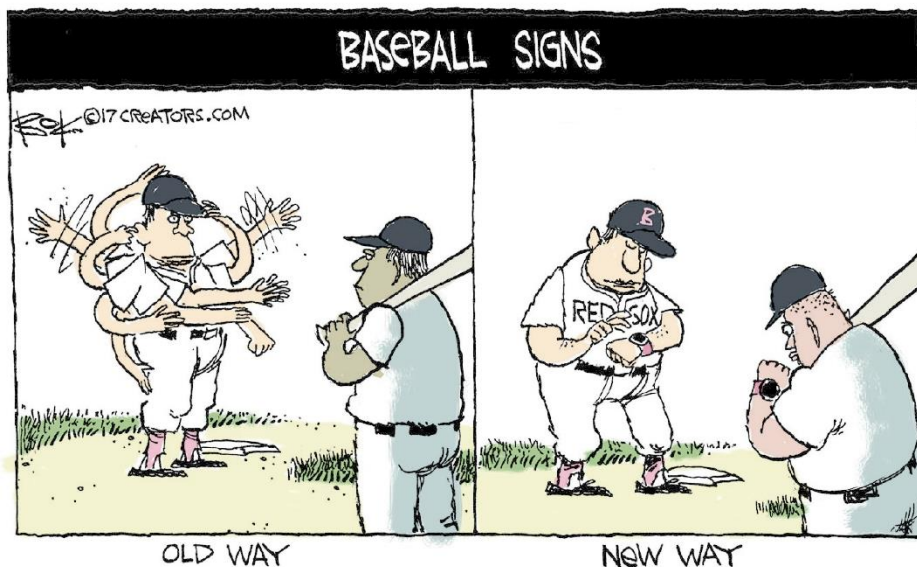
DO THREE OF THE FOLLOWING (8A, 8B, 8C, 8D, or 8E) FOR REQUIREMENT 8

REQUIREMENT 8a: Demonstrate five sports official's hand signs/signals. Tell what the signals mean and why they are used:

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.

BASEBALL

DO NOT PITCH	PLAY BALL	COUNT	OUT / STRIKE	INFIELD FLY	TIME OUT / DEAD BALL
FAIR BALL	SAFE	FOUL BALL / FOUL TIP	TIME VIOLATION		





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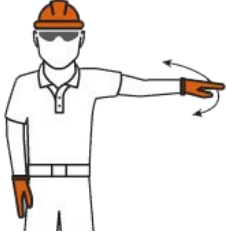
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REQUIREMENT 8b: Demonstrate five heavy-equipment operator's hand signals. Tell what the signals mean and why they are used:

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.

CRANE OPERATOR



STOP



EMERGENCY STOP



HOIST



LOWER



LOWER BOOM



RAISE BOOM



MOVE SLOWLY



SWING

SPOTTER



BACK UP



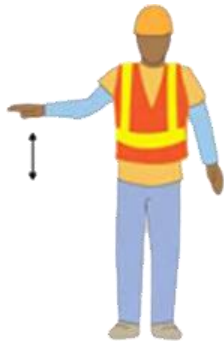
BACK, TURN LEFT



BACK, TURN RIGHT



STOP



SLOW DOWN



MOVE FORWARD



DISTANCE LEFT



















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REQUIREMENT 8c: Demonstrate five aircraft carrier catapult crew signals. Tell what the signals mean and why they are used:

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.













AIRPLANE CAPTAIN	AIRPLANE CAPTAIN	AIRPLANE CAPTAIN	AIRPLANE CAPTAIN
			
AIRCRAFT APU START	ENGINE 1 START	ENGINE 1 START	ENGINE 2 START
AIRPLANE CAPTAIN	AIRPLANE CAPTAIN	AIRPLANE CAPTAIN	AIRPLANE CAPTAIN
			
ENGINE 2 START	SWITCH WING FLAPS TO AUTO	RAISE WING FLAPS	FLIGHT CONTROLS WIPEOUT
AIRPLANE CAPTAIN	AIRPLANE CAPTAIN	AIRPLANE CAPTAIN	AIRPLANE CAPTAIN
			
ELEVATOR /AILERON CHECK	LOWER / EXTEND WING FLAPS	LEFT RUDDER CHECK	RIGHT RUDDER CHECK
AIRPLANE CAPTAIN	AIRPLANE CAPTAIN	AIRCRAFT HANDLING OFFICER	AIRCRAFT HANDLING OFFICER
			



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<i>HANDS OFF CONTROLS</i>	<i>PASS CONTROL TO</i>	<i>REMOVE TIEDOWNS</i>	<i>UNFOLD WINGS</i>
AIRCRAFT HANDLING OFFICER	AIRCRAFT HANDLING OFFICER	AIRCRAFT HANDLING OFFICER	AIRCRAFT HANDLING OFFICER
			
<i>MOVE AHEAD</i>	<i>TURN LEFT</i>	<i>TURN RIGHT</i>	<i>STOP</i>
AIRCRAFT HANDLING OFFICER	AIRCRAFT HANDLING OFFICER	AIRCRAFT HANDLING OFFICER	AIRCRAFT HANDLING OFFICER
			
<i>BRAKES ON</i>	<i>EXTEND LAUNCH BAR</i>	<i>UNFOLD WINGS</i>	<i>TAKE TENSION</i>
SHOOTER	SHOOTER	SHOOTER	CATAPULT OFFICER
			
<i>ENGINE RUN-UP</i>	<i>SUSPEND</i>	<i>LAUNCH</i>	<i>CATAPULT READY</i>

Notes:



















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REQUIREMENT 8d: Demonstrate five cyclist's hand signals. Tell what the signals mean and why they are used:

Left Turn	Right Turn	Stop	Speed Up	Slow Down	Follow Me	You Lead / Come
 <p>Palm facing down</p>	 <p>90 angle up, fist clenched</p>	 <p>90 angle down, palm open facing back</p>	 <p>Swing arm up to left turn position, palm open facing up, repeat</p>	 <p>Swing arm down, palm open facing down, repeat</p>	 <p>Arm held straight up; palm open facing forward</p>	 <p>Arm extended 45 degrees, palm forward pointing with index finger, swing in arc from back to front</p>
Hazard In Road	Single File	Double File	Comfort Stop	Refreshment Stop	Turn Signal On	Pull Off
 <p>On the left, point with left hand, on the right, point with right hand</p>	 <p>Arm with index finger extended straight up</p>	 <p>Arm with index and middle finger extended straight up</p>	 <p>Forearm extended, fist clenched with thumb up and down motion</p>	 <p>Fingers closed, thumb to mouth</p>	 <p>Open and close hand with fingers and thumb extended</p>	 <p>Arm positioned as for right turn; forearm swung toward shoulder</p>
Cops Ahead	Fuel	Notes:				
 <p>Tap on top of helmet with open palm down</p>	 <p>Arm out to side pointing at tank with finger extended</p>					



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REQUIREMENT 8e: Demonstrate five signals from an activity selected by you and your counselor. Tell what the signals mean and why they are used:

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.

See what you can determine and share it with the counselor.

Musical Notation
Waterskiing Gestures

Cattle Branding
Hobo Signs

Proofreader's Marks
Weather Symbols

Scuba Diving Signals
Stock Market Exchange Hand Signals

REQUIREMENT 9: Share with your counselor 10 examples of symbols used in everyday life. Design your own symbol. Share it with your counselor and explain what it means. Then do the following:

This requirement must be reviewed with your merit badge counselor.

Everyday symbols are the visual signs and icons we encounter regularly in our daily lives that communicate specific meanings or information without the need for words:





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RED
Regulatory, immediate action.



ORANGE
Temporary road conditions.



YELLOW
Road conditions.



WHITE
Traffic regulation, helpful information.



GREEN
Directions, permitted movements.



BLUE
Road services, directions.



BROWN
Fun places to visit!



Signs, Signals, and Codes Merit Badge

REQUIREMENT 9b: Using a topographical map, explain what a map legend is and discuss its importance. Point out 10 map symbols and explain the meaning of each.

Use the following legend in conjunction with the following web article to be prepared for this requirement during the class

<https://www.rei.com/learn/expert-advice/topo-maps-how-to-use.html>

TOPOGRAPHIC MAP SYMBOLS

VARIATIONS WILL BE FOUND ON OLDER MAPS

Primary highway, hard surface		Boundaries: National	
Secondary highway, hard surface		State	
Light-duty road, hard or improved surface		County, parish, municipio	
Unimproved road		Civil township, precinct, town, barrio	
Road under construction, allignment known		Incorporated city, village, town, hamlet	
Proposed road		Reservation, National or State	
Dual highway, dividing strip 25 feet or less		Small park, cemetery, airport, etc.	
Dual highway, dividing strip exceeding 25 feet		Land grant	
Trail		Township or range line, United States land survey	
Railroad: single track and multiple track		Township or range line, approximate location	
Railroads in juxtaposition		Section line, United States land survey	
Narrow gage: single track and multiple track		Section line, approximate location	
Railroad in street and carline		Township line, not United States land survey	
Bridge: road and railroad		Section line, not United States land survey	
Drawbridge: road and railroad		Found corner: section and closing	
Footbridge		Boundary monument: land grant and other	
Tunnel: road and railroad		Fence or field line	
Overpass and underpass		Index contour	
Small masonry or concrete dam		Supplementary contour	
Dam with lock		Intermediate contour	
Dam with road		Depression contours	
Canal with lock		Fill	
Buildings (dwelling, place of employment, etc.)		Levee	
School, church, and cemetery		Mine dump	
Buildings (barn, warehouse, etc.)		Tailings	
Power transmission line with located metal tower		Shifting sand or dunes	
Telephone line, pipeline, etc. (labeled as to type)		Sand area	
Wells other than water (labeled as to type)		Perennial streams	
Tanks: oil, water, etc. (labeled only if water)		Elevated aqueduct	
Located or landmark object; windmill		Water well and spring	
Open pit, mine, or quarry; prospect		Small rapids	
Shaft and tunnel entrance		Large rapids	
Horizontal and vertical control station:		Intermittent streams	
Tablet, spirit level elevation	BM Δ 5653	Aqueduct tunnel	
Other recoverable mark, spirit level elevation	Δ 5455	Water well and spring	
Horizontal control station: tablet, vertical angle elevation	VABM Δ 9519	Small rapids	
Any recoverable mark, vertical angle or checked elevation	Δ 3775	Large rapids	
Vertical control station: tablet, spirit level elevation	BM X 957	Intermittent lake	
Other recoverable mark, spirit level elevation	X 954	Foreshore flat	
Spot elevation	X 7369 X 7369	Sounding, depth curve	
Water elevation	670 670	Exposed wreck	
		Rock, bare or awash; dangerous to navigation	
		Marsh (swamp)	
		Wooded marsh	
		Woods or brushwood	
		Vineyard	
		Land subject to controlled inundation	
		Submerged marsh	
		Mangrove	
		Orchard	
		Scrub	
		Urban area	



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REQUIREMENT 9c:

Discuss text-message symbols and why they are commonly used.

CHAT EMOTICONS											
:)	:d	:p	;)	(op)	(go)	\$bu	\$bl	\$cw	\$ci	\$si	\$wa
\$yo	\$he	\$r1	\$r2	\$r3	\$r4	\$u3	\$y1	\$we	(lol)	(mdr)	\$ii
\$ll	:o	:|	(ah)	(OO)	(oo)	(pa)	???	\$no	\$oo	\$hin	:s
*-(	:-*	8-	^o	*-)	(-)	\$cd	:^)	\$mm	\$pu	\$ki	<:o)
:q	(el)	(mi)	\$fo	\$ho	\$hp	\$wn	\$wt	\$pt	\$fk	:('	\$pl
\$tr	(tri)	\$pp	:(:	(O(	(ey)	(rr)	(va)	(mm)	(te)	:-#	8-|
8o|	\$ri	\$ai	\$pa	\$to	\$me	\$ay	\$arf	\$i1	—\$i2	—\$i3	\$og
\$y2	\$a1	\$oi	\$w3	\$w4	\$w5	\$fu	\$sl	(y)	(n)	(yn)	(h5)
\$ng	:@	(li)	(to)	\$gr	\$GR	\$de	+o(	\$es	\$ye	\$e2	\$e3
\$e4	\$e5	(h)	(cp)	\$ko	\$hh	(i)	(?)	\$66	(*)	(r)	(#)
\$sh	(um)	(st)	(t)	(e)	(m)	RING:r	(mp)	\$lt	RING\$bp	:\$	(})
({)	(l)	(u)	(x)	(z)	,f	()	\$te	\$ga	\$bi	Merci\$mc	\$kk
\$ks	\$mg	\$lv	(k)	,,	(f)	(w)	(ro)	(a)	(6)	\$am	(p)
(~)	\$cl	\$ap	(^)	(8)	(88)	\$mu	(888)	\$li	\$tv	\$tw	(s)
(o)	|-	(brb)	(ti)	(lit)	\$zz	\$aa	\$ma	\$be	\$tt	(au)	(ap)
\$b1	\$b2	\$b3	(mo)	(so)	(co)	:g	:b	\$gt	:n	:z	:v
EXIT:x	(ca)	(mic)	(sp)	\$gp	:m	:M	:f	:F	:c	:a	:C
:[	(@)	(&)	(sn)	(bah)	(rf)	(coc)	(vac)	(si)	(oi)	(gr)	(lap)
\$an	\$ou	(tu)	\$at	\$pj	\$fg	\$pn	\$pe	\$pi	\$bt	\$c1	\$c2
\$c3	\$cj	\$cc	\$do	\$ti	\$s1	\$s2	\$s3	\$se	\$co	\$sn	\$ol
\$mh	\$ct	\$ph	\$sy	\$zo	\$hr	\$in	\$nn	\$nr	\$st	\$ss	\$cq
\$gg	\$la	\$ps	\$da	\$bs	\$dd	\$ep	\$v1	\$v2	\$vw	(ip)	\$va
\$et	\$mt	\$so	\$us	\$ar1	\$ar2	\$m1	\$m2	\$m3	\$m4	\$m5	\$ff
\$cp	(pl)	(pi)	(||)	\$ce	\$fr	\$cr	\$gl	\$lo	\$mi	\$ba	\$ca
\$ha	\$po	\$bd	\$hb	\$fm	\$ra	\$nt	\$bz	\$dj	\$op	\$gc	\$pm
\$ml	\$hd	\$on	(b)	(d)	(c)	:t	(pr)	\$ch	\$ve	\$em	\$cf
\$bx	\$ts	(fl)	(ma)	(val)	(ms)	(po)	(lu)	\$as	\$br	\$cs	\$sa
\$sm	\$vi	\$bh	\$ja	\$mz	\$lu	\$uu	\$u1	\$u2	\$y3	\$y4	\$y5
\$u4	;c	:k	\$wc	\$vc	\$bk	\$if	(ci)	\$mo	\$rp	\$d1	\$d2
\$d3	\$d4	\$d5	\$d6	\$d7	\$sc	\$d8	\$d9	\$um	\$d0	\$ms	\$w1
\$w2	\$su	(al)	(br)	(bl)	(rs)	(la)	\$fi	\$f1	\$f2	\$f3	\$f4
\$f5	\$f6	\$f7	\$f8	\$f9	\$fa	\$fq	\$yl	\$rb	\$h1	\$h2	\$h3
\$h4	\$h5	\$h6	\$h7	\$is	\$cu	\$cv	\$cz	\$kf	(%)	(cl)	:%
\$cn	\$tu	\$bo	\$ta	\$oe	(bo)	\$wh	\$fe	\$wp	(g)	\$ne	\$nl
\$cm	\$sp	\$bn	\$le	\$ro	\$rO	\$aq	\$ee				



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REQUIREMENT 9c: Give examples of your favorite 10 text symbols or emoticons. Then see if your counselor or parent can identify the meaning or usage of each symbol.

Notes:

REQUIREMENT 10: Briefly discuss the history of secret code writing (cryptography).

Notes:



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REQUIREMENT 10: Make up your own secret code and write a message of up to 25 words using this code. Share the message with a friend or fellow Scout. Then share the message and code key with your counselor and discuss the effectiveness of your code.

Your Code:

Your Message:

Your Friend or Fellow Scout's Decoding of your Message: