

Canton Museum of Art Boy Scouts of America

Badge Program: Pottery



The Pottery merit badge provides an introduction to pottery making, enabling Scouts to gain skill and understanding from actually creating pottery. Completing the requirements will include hands-on production of a work of art, from start to finish.

CMA Pottery Merit Badge Requirements

1. Prerequisite Before CMA Program:

- b. Find out about career opportunities in pottery. Pick one and find out the education, training, and experience required for this profession. Discuss this with your counselor, and explain why this profession might interest you. Please have your blue card signed by your counselor and bring to the museum for full credit. We will have Scout Leaders and Counselors available to sign off on your blue cards to receive full credit for your potter badge.
- c. **YOU MUST BRING YOUR BLUE CARDS TO THE EVENT TO RECEIVE FULL CREDIT**

2. Session One: Pottery and Hand Building Basics

- a. Scouts will participate in learning the fundamentals of creating basic pottery vessels.
 - i. Make a coil, and a pinch pot.
 - ii. Make two drawings of pottery forms, each on an 8½-by-11-inch sheet of paper.
 1. One historical pottery style.
 2. One your own design.
 - iii. Create a slab pot from one of the two designs.

3. Session Two: Ceramics Lab Demonstration and Tour

- a. Students will participate in a tour of the CMA ceramics lab and watch a demonstration on throwing on a pottery wheel by a professional potter.
 - i. Participate in a discussion about the precautions that must be followed for the safe use and operation of a potter's tools, equipment, and other materials.
 - ii. Explain the meaning of the following pottery terms: bat, wedging, throwing, leather hard, bone dry, greenware, bisque, terra-cotta, grog, slip, score, earthenware, stoneware, porcelain, pyrometric cone, and glaze.
 - iii. Explain the properties and ingredients of a good clay body for the following:
 1. Making sculpture
 2. Throwing on the wheel

4. Session Three: Creating a Clay Sculpture

- a. Students will learn about hand building basics on how to create a sculpture.
 - i. Make an animal sculpture inspired by the CMA permanent collection ceramic sculptures.

5. Session Four: Guided Tour with CMA Docent

- a. Participate in a tour of the exhibit: *Allied Artists of America: 100 Years:* (<http://www.cantonart.org/exhibits/upcoming>).
 - i. Participate in a discussion about the exhibit and connect the knowledge learned in previous sessions to the exhibit.
 - ii. Example: Participate in a discussion about the ceramic industry in the United States. List some things made other than craft pottery.

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Requirements

- 1. Explain to your counselor the precautions that must be followed for the safe use and operation of a potter's tools, equipment, and other materials.**
- 2. Do the following:**
 - a. Explain the properties and ingredients of a good clay body for the following:
 1. Making sculpture
 2. Throwing on the wheel
 - b. Tell how three different kinds of potter's wheels work.
- 3. Make two drawings of pottery forms, each on an 8½-by-11-inch sheet of paper. One must be a historical pottery style. The other must be of your own design.**
- 4. Explain the meaning of the following pottery terms: bat, wedging, throwing, leather hard, bone dry, greenware, bisque, terra-cotta, grog, slip, score, earthenware, stoneware, porcelain, pyrometric cone, and glaze.**
- 5. Do the following. Each piece is to be painted, glazed, or otherwise decorated by you:**
 - a. Make a slab pot, a coil pot, and a pinch pot.
 - b. Make a human or animal figurine or decorative sculpture.
 - c. Throw a functional form on a potter's wheel.
 - d. Help to fire a kiln.
- 6. Explain the scope of the ceramic industry in the United States. Tell some things made other than craft pottery.**
- 7. With your parent's permission and your counselor's approval, do ONE of the following:**
 - a. Visit the kiln yard at a local college or other craft school. Learn how the different kinds of kilns work, including low fire electric, gas or propane high fire, wood or salt/soda, and raku.
 - b. Visit a museum, art exhibit, art gallery, artists' co-op, or artist's studio that features pottery. After your visit, share with your counselor what you have learned.
 - c. Using resources from the library, magazines, the Internet (with your parent's permission), and other outlets, learn about the historical and cultural importance of pottery. Share what you discover with your counselor.
- 8. Find out about career opportunities in pottery. Pick one and find out the education, training, and experience required for this profession. Discuss this with your counselor, and explain why this profession might interest you.**