

Performance Badge

(written by Doreen Olson)



The purpose of this badge is to encourage the honing of skills in the performing arts as well as to promote the gaining of stage presence. It will focus on live performance, but can be applied to film or sound recordings at the troop leader's discretion. The performing arts include music, dance, magic tricks, theatre, storytelling, comedy, acrobatics, and circus arts. The reason the performances are limited to one or two performing arts is because this badge is intended to reward advancement in a skill, rather than learning a new skill. If a girl has many arts she performs, she can re-earn the badge with (an)other performing art(s). No credit can be given toward this badge for activities that include suggestive routines, immodest garments or morally questionable comments or behavior.

Otters: choose four requirements including those starred.

*1. How can performing for an audience help you learn character qualities such as graciousness, teamwork, humility, bravery, cooperation, determination, gratefulness, good humor, and confidence? Look up any of these qualities for which you do not know the definition. Choose one and decide to work on it. Ask your parent(s) and teacher or coach for ways you can practice the character quality you've chosen.

*2. Complete four performances in the same performing art, each at least two minutes in length, for which you have either a solo part or you are part of a small ensemble. Your audiences must have at least twenty people each time and you need to have spent at least a week memorizing, practicing, or learning your part. When you are done, you need to thank your coach, director, or teacher for his or her help. You also need to thank anyone who gave you transportation to the event.

3. Do something nice for your coach, director, teacher or team members. Provide snacks for an intermission, make a special card of appreciation, spend a significant amount of time helping to clean up after a performance, etc.
4. Learn about the history of your art. You may read a biography, watch a documentary at least 45 minutes in length, or listen to a live presentation about someone who made a lasting contribution to your art.
5. Help produce a performance in some way. For instance, you can be an usher, help with a fundraiser, distribute advertising, prepare costumes, make reminder phone calls or change props between acts of a play.

Dolphins: choose five requirements including those starred.

*1. What is the objective of your performing this art? Is it for diversion/entertainment, inspiration/encouragement, or motivation/education? After you decide why you perform your art, try to think of a way you can accomplish your goal better. Should you change your introductory remarks, choose a better costume, perfect your performance, or pick a different piece to do? Is there a way you can add another goal to what you already do? Can you choose a poem to recite that has a message in addition to humor? Could you give the emcee a better historical background for your piece, thus educating your audience while entertaining? Should you smile more?

*2. Complete eight performances, each at least two minutes in length, in a maximum of two performing arts. Out of these eight performances, at least one must be for an audience of more than one hundred people and all the others should have a minimum audience of twenty. At least one must be part of a charitable project—performing at a hospital or a fundraiser (from which you do not financially benefit), etc. At least one performance needs to have special attire—all black for orchestra, costume for drama—or some kind of prop to add to the performance. Your performances need to be difficult enough to have taken at least a week of preparation. If anyone compliments your performance, tell him thank you for attending.

Express your gratefulness to the other people putting on the event.

3. Same as Otter #3.
4. Same as Otter #4, except if you choose to read about performers, you need to read more than one biography.
5. Same as Otter #5.
6. Take a tour of a theater, opera house, auditorium, or large studio to see how facilities can make a difference to a performer. What are acoustics? What types of equipment, props, or tools are used in your art? Check out how one of them works—one that you haven't used before (this can be learning to play a song on a new musical instrument). What is the role of lighting, curtains, and decorations?
7. Attend a performance of your art (or a similar one) done by a professional or a person of some renown in your art. It should be at least 45 minutes in length.

Butterflies: choose six requirements including those starred.

***1.** Learn to deflect praise and to be gracious when complimented. To deflect praise, you can verbally express your debt to your great teachers or to your parents for paying for lessons, etc. When someone compliments your performance, you can show graciousness by smiling (no matter how you personally feel about it) and saying 'thank you.' You can also say you enjoyed performing; you appreciate the person coming to hear/see you; you were honored to have been allowed to share the stage with such talented people.

***2.** Complete ten performances, each at least two minutes in length, in a maximum of two performing arts. One performance should be at least five minutes long. These need to be as close to solo performances as possible. Obviously, some musical instruments are not given solos very often, and not everyone can sing the lead in a musical, but get approval from your troop leader for performances that include more than four people for your particular song, act, or dance. Audiences need to have at least twenty people. You should perform pieces that are difficult enough to require at least a week of preparation. At least one performance must be part of a charitable project or be done as a favor for another person. One performance must be either for an audience of more than two hundred OR be at least two hours' travel from your home. Please remember to thank or honor those who have helped with your performance.

3. Same as Otter #3, but done on at least two occasions.
4. Same as Dolphin #4.
5. Same as Otter #5, except done on at least two occasions.
6. Same as Dolphin #6, but it must be a different facility than one visited as a Dolphin.
7. Help with planning a performance away from home. If you are the only person going, it must be an overnight trip. If you are part of a group, you need to help with more than one aspect of the trip—packing, making checklists, making reservations, lining people up before the performance, keeping in touch with other drivers by phone, ordering & distributing meals, etc.
8. Attend a master's class or workshop in your art. It must be at least four hours in length and be something that is not routinely offered in your community.

Eagles: choose seven requirements including those starred.

*1. Teach a class in your performing art (this must be a minimum of two sessions) OR take a younger person under your wing and help her with several aspects of her performance—adjusting or designing clothing & makeup, coaching & calming her, keeping her company in a new auditorium until she knows where everything is, keeping track of her luggage if you are away from home, making sure she gets a copy of the program or a photo as a memento.

*2. Same as Butterfly #2 except it is for twelve performances and two of them need to be at least five minutes in length. At least one must be without any music, notes, or prompts of any kind and one must be for an audience of less than fifty where there is interaction with the audience such as a question & answer time, your introducing your own act, or a reception following a performance.

3. Same as Butterfly #3.

4. Same as Dolphin #4.

5. Same as Butterfly #5.

6. Same as Dolphin #6, but it must be a facility you haven't toured previously.

7. Same as Dolphin #7, but at least two performances, each at least an hour in length.

8. Same as Butterfly #8.

9. Create something new in your art—compose a new song, choreograph a dance, write & help perform a puppet show, etc. If your new piece is for one person, it only needs to be three minutes long, but if it is for more than one person, it should be more than five minutes long.

10. Put on a complete workshop for younger girls in your troop so that they can earn the majority of a badge in one day in your area of expertise. At least two girls must attend and you must help them document what they learned or did. You can charge for materials if needed. You need to make sure lunch or snack breaks are supervised if the workshop is long enough to need breaks.

