Bugling Merit Badge

Monday
- Requirement 1: Give a brief history of the bugle.
- Requirement 2a: Explain and demonstrate how the bugle makes sound, and explain how the bugle is related to other brass wind instruments.
- Requirement 2b: (Assign) Compose a bugle call for your troop or patrol to signal a common group activity, such as assembling for mealtime or striking campsite. Play the call that you have composed before your unit or patrol.
- Requirement 3&4: Sound the following bugle calls; & explain when each is used
  1. First Call
  2. Reveille
  3. Assembly
  4. To the Colors

Tuesday
- Requirement 5: Explain how to care for, clean, and maintain a bugle.
- Requirement 3&4: Sound the following bugle calls; & explain when each is used
  1. Mess Call
  2. Fatigue
  3. Recall
  4. Officers Call

Wednesday
- Requirement 3&4: Sound the following bugle calls; & explain when each is used
  1. Drill Call
  2. Retreat
  3. Call to Quarters
  4. Taps

Thursday
- Requirement 3&4: Sound the following bugle calls; & explain when each is used
  1. Church Call
  2. Swimming
  3. Fire Call

- Call for 2b assignment
- Explain requirement 6 to be completed at home: Serve as bugler in your troop for three months.

Friday
Monday

- Requirement 1: *Give a brief history of the bugle.*

Bugles have been used for thousands of years; as your merit badge pamphlet indicates. A pair of long, straight bugles dating back over 3,000 years ago were found in King Tut’s tomb! Other Biblical stories tell of signals sounded on ram’s horns to signal the beginning of battles and even the exodus from Egypt. Napoleon, the famous French military leader even established a school for buglers, and had the calls written down so that they could be taught, learned, and used consistently throughout his armies. Bugles have been made from a variety of materials including animal horns such as rams, African kudu, conch shells, copper, brass, & even silver. In WWII, when brass became in short supply due to the heavy demand for shell casings, the US Army used plastic bugles. They come in a wide variety of size & shape.

Show: kudu, trench bugle, copper/brass w/pigtail, Amati clarion, US Regulation (M1890) or Boy Scout bugle.

- Requirement 2a: *Explain and demonstrate how the bugle makes sound, and explain how the bugle is related to other brass wind instruments.*

(Ask can anyone explain how sounds are made before giving the following)

As you all probably know, all sounds are made by vibrating objects; the vibrations cause waves in the air that surround it that move outward, like a pebble dropped in a still pond, that strike your ear drum and replicate the speed and intensity of the vibration and is translated by your brain into sound.

With the bugle, the sound is created by forcing air between your pursed lips so that they vibrate within the cup of the mouthpiece. You change the note played by changing the speed of the air you blow and your embouchure.

*The embouchure is the shape, position, and adjustment of the lips, teeth, and tongue to the mouthpiece of the instrument.* *BSA Bugling MB Pamphlet*

(Have each Scout demonstrate how to vibrate lips with & without a bugle mouthpiece)

(Ask for similarities & differences between the bugle and the trumpet, trombone, French horn, and tuba)
To the Colors is played when everyone has gathered for the raising or lowering of the flag.

Majestically but not too slow

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Fatigue summons those who are to report for some type of work activity. Because it is rarely heard, its message might not be recognized unless your troop knows it well.

Recall signals that something under way should end. An example would be a game of Capture the Flag when everyone is scattered far and wide. An alternative call might be Assembly.

Officers would be played for a meeting of the troop leaders. It is so unfamiliar to most troops, you probably will not use it.
Call to Quarters signals that everyone should return to the place
they will be sleeping. It will later be followed by Taps, at which time
lights are turned off for sleeping.

Taps signals the end of the day when everyone is to go to sleep. It
also is played at funerals.
Fire is an alarm that there is danger. This call is unique and will get almost anyone's attention.
First Call

Reveille

Assembly

Mess
Drill Call

Fatigue

Officer's Call

Recall

Church Call
To The Colors

Call To Quarters

Taps