

Biography Merit Badge – American History

Objective: Academy students will experience the life of a significant person by reading a biography of a figure from American history

Tasks:

Choice of book:

Within the limits of an assignment, book choice should be at, or above, the reading level indicated by the AR test. The book must be a biography or an autobiography of a significant person. No fiction is allowed for this badge.

Reading Log:

The reading log will be double-entry with a summary for each chapter. There should be several entries for each chapter. The reading log is a working document and may be in pencil.

Coat of Arms (see Ms. Johnson for a sample):

The coat of arms will have four sections on the shield:

1. One section illustrating the *personal characteristics* of the individual (valor, integrity, attention to detail, compassion, etc.).
2. One section illustrating actual *significant events* in the life of the individual;
3. One section illustrating the *family and history* of the individual;
4. One section illustrating *a problem* that the individual had.

The coat of arms will include *a motto* that describes the individual, or that the individual might have used as a motivator (*Death before Dishonor, Veritas, etc*)

Creative Assignment: (pick two)

1. A poem describing the individual;
2. A *PowerPoint* presentation describing the individual;
3. A *collage* made up of pictures of events in the life of the individual (at least 11 X 17")
4. A *fan letter* to the individual describing the most honored behaviors and asking questions about why decisions were made.

Written Assignment:

1. An essay of at least 500 words (two pages typed) describing the individual's accomplishments and significance including a discussion of the personal impact of the individual on the insights of the student.
2. A one page letter to a friend explaining why this book is valuable and should be read (or why it wasn't and shouldn't).