Many of the requirements for Communications Merit Badge have to be done outside of the classroom so I will be asking scouts to complete work beforehand. If they aren’t able to do this, that is ok, it simply means that they will leave the session with a partial merit badge. The more prepared they are the easier things will move along.

Requirements:

1. **Communication Activities:** We will discuss in class options A and D. These two options are very easy and we will discuss as a group.

2. **Short speech or presentation:** Do One of A or B. **This should be done and rehearsed in advance.** I think an introduction would be great but if they chose to sell something it should include an introduction. Include things like name, where they live, Troop and Scout rank, and something special that they do either inside or outside of scouting. Be creative, I have had scouts make signs or do a PowerPoint presentation with effects. Have some fun with it.

3. **5 Minute Speech. This is very important.** **This should be done and rehearsed in advance.** The speech should literally be 5 minutes, not 2, not 3, not 4, but **5 full minutes.** Great speeches that I have listened to have discussed family trips, High Adventure trips, the use of DH in baseball, who is better Lebron or Michael Jordan (!), and even a study of the various slushies and thoughts on slushies that are served at Woodruff Scout Reservation. Some scouts give speeches about their favorite sport team or some activity that they are involved in. I really don’t want a recap of someone’s day or a day to day telling of summer vacations! Put a little thought and effort into these speeches!

4. **Interviews.** We will do this one in class.

5. **Public Meeting.** **Must be done either before the class or after.** Please provide proof of attendance such as a picture and/or program. In the current environment this will likely be done virtually.

6. **Teaching a skill. Think about before class.** **Please know what you are doing before class and prepare.** Bring props. Have fun! Ideas? Make a paper airplane or a spinning top out of an acorn. Teach a magic trick. Instruct on how to throw a curveball vs. a fastball. Teach out to throw a Frisbee or scoop and cradle a lacrosse ball. Teach how to tie a particular knot (other than a square knot!) or how to use a back pack stove! Think about using the EDGE Method to train which is found in the Scout Handbook and which we will discuss. Can also be found using this link: https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2017/05/05/living-on-the-edge-this-is-the-correct-way-to-teach-someone-a-skill/

7. **Using a Communication Tool: Do ONE of A, B, or C.** **Has to be done prior to class.** 7a is very easy and involves writing a letter to an editor or a magazine or newspaper. It also has to be sent!! Those with Web Design ability take a look at B. Desktop Publishing to produce a flyer for your Troop, class or group could be fun? Anyone working on an Eagle project, troop activity, sport activity, fund raiser?

8. **Plan a troop or crew Court of Honor, Campfire, or Interfaith Worship service** – **This cannot be done in class.** If you have done this I will need your scoutmaster to sign-off.

9. **Career opportunities in the field of communication** – Pick one and find out the training, education, and experience required for this profession. Discuss why this may be of some interest to you.