

# Boy Scout Texas Badge Application



LONGHORN COUNCIL, BSA  
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# **BOY SCOUT TEXAS BADGE AWARD APPLICATION**

## **1. Qualifications**

To earn the Texas Scout Award, you must be an active Boy Scout, Explorer, Venture, or Varsity Scout registered in a troop, post, crew or team in Texas.

## **2. State Symbols**

- a. Describe the flag of Texas and explain the significance of its parts.
- b. Give the name of the state bird of Texas and show that you can identify it in the field by sight or call.
- c. Give the name of the flower of Texas and show that you can identify it in the field.
- d. Sing or recite the words of "Texas, Our Texas."

## **3. State History**

- a. Describe the six flags of Texas. Describe some of the major events, which occurred in Texas while under each flag.
- b. Pick any year before 1960. Describe important events that happened in Texas that year and how they influenced the future of Texas.
- c. Choose a famous Texan. Tell why you chose that person. Read one or more biographies of this person and explain the person's importance to Texas.
  - I. Identify a site or trail in Texas of historical significance. Tell why it is important to Texas history.
  - II. With one or more companions, hike for at least two miles near the site OR camp overnight at or near the site.
- d. Assist a volunteer organization, which preserves or perpetuates Texas history or culture by performing a service project (approved by your counselor) for at least 3 hours.

## **4. State Culture**

- a. Identify an Indian tribe which, at any time, lived, camped or hunted near your community. Report on its culture.
- b.
  - I. Choose any ethnic group (other than the Indians in requirement 4a) of which you are not a member. Give a brief history of the group and tell of any special customs and observances it has.
  - II. Participate in and describe at least one special observance, feast or holiday this group celebrates, and explain its origin.
  - III. Prepare one traditional food of this group to serve four people.
- c. Read at least one book (fiction or non-fiction) by a Texas author on a Texas subject (in addition to the biography of requirement 3c) or read at least three short stories by one or more Texas authors on Texas subject, OR read at least three poems by one or more Texas authors on Texas subjects.
- d. Describe the work of five volunteer groups, which support cultural activities in Texas.

**2a. Describe the flag of Texas and explain the significance of its parts.**

In 1839, the Republic of Texas adopted a flag, which had one blue vertical bar with a white star on it and two horizontal bars, white on top and red on bottom. Most of the citizens of the new nation had recently moved from the United States, so it is not surprising that their flag resembled “Old Glory”

The groups of volunteers who fought for Texas in the War of Independence from Mexico carried many flags, often made by the ladies of the soldiers’ hometowns. Some of these include the Gonzales flag showing the old cannon which the Texans were keeping from the Mexican Army, with the motto, “Come and Take It”, and the Alamo flag, with vertical stripes of red, white and green (like the Mexican flag) with the year “1824” on it to show the Texans’ support of the Mexican Constitution for 1824 which had contained many protections they felt necessary for their freedom.

**2b. Give the name of the state bird of Texas and show that you can identify it in the field, by sight or call.**

The mockingbird is the Texas State bird. He is found in all parts of the state throughout the year. He is about the size of a robin (9-11 inches long), mostly gray, with distinctive patches of white on his wings which show up best during flight. The mockingbird gets his name from his ability to imitate the calls of so many other birds: while doing his “bird calls” the mockingbird will repeat the call several times. On your next campout, identify the “mocker” by sight or call for your unity leader and have him write a note to your Texas Award counselor that you have passed this requirement.

**2c. Give the name of the state flower of Texas and show that you can identify it in the field.**

Anyone who has traveled a Texas country road in spring has seen seas of beautiful bright-colored bluebonnets, the state flower. The flowers are so pretty, state laws protects them by making it illegal to pick those growing on the public highways; but you can grow them at home and use them for decorations as you wish.

**2d. Sing or recite the words of “Texas, Our Texas.”**

Our state song is “Texas, Our Texas”. The words appear below:

Texas, our Texas, all hail the mighty state  
Texas, our Texas, so wonderful so great;  
Largest and grandest, withstanding every test;  
O’ empire wide and glorious  
You stand supremely blest;

God bless you, Texas  
And keep you brave and strong.  
That you may grow in power and worth  
Throughout the ages long.

**3a. Describe the six flags of Texas. Describe some of the major events, which occurred in Texas while under each flag.**

**SPAIN**

The first Europeans to visit Texas were Spaniards. With the great excitement aroused by Columbus's voyage of 1492, the Spanish king and nobles were eager to find land and riches in the New World. The first journeys were to Cuba and the other Caribbean Islands discovered by Columbus. Then they visited the lands we know as Mexico and Central America, where the Aztec and Mayan Indian civilizations had built great cities and amassed large fortunes of gold, silver, and jewels, which the adventurers wanted. To the north of Mexico lay Texas; the Indians there had not such wealth, and their land did not attract much interest from Spanish conquistadors.

Shipwrecks brought the Spaniards to Texas. In 1519, a band of Spaniards led by one Pineda was wrecked on the Gulf Coast of Texas, but they left quickly. In 1528, the explorer Narvaez and his expedition were leaving Florida, where they had met hostile Indians. These men could not find their ships, and built some with the meager materials they had on hand. They sailed along the coast of the Gulf of Mexico, headed for Tampico. Many of the boats, including that of Narvaez, were lost at sea. A few of the boats sailed as far as Galveston Island.

Of those who arrived, the chief of Alvar Nunex Cabeza de Vaca, a nobleman who had been the expedition's treasurer. Cabeza de Vaca kept an account of the terrible suffering of the Spanish, who landed at Galveston almost starved, and were taken in by the Indians. Cabeza de Vaca gained a reputation of healing the sick, and he and the few remaining Spaniards lived with the Indians for almost six years, as the natives would not let him go. Finally, he and another Spaniard, Quiedo, swam to the mainland and wandered over a great expanse of what is not Texas. He crossed over the Gulf of California, where he reached a northern outpost of Spanish Mexico, and was returned to civilization.

During his travels, Cabeza de Vaca found a Moor, Stephen, who went with him to Mexico. Stephen told fantastic stories of the riches to be found along the routes they traveled, and a priest, Friar Marcos, took Stephen on an expedition to try to find the fabled Seven Cities of Cibola which were supposed to be filled with gold. Stephen was killed along the way and friar got to a point where he was able to see an Indian village against the backdrop of the Zuni Mountains – he thought he had found the seven cities. But the friar hurried away before actually visiting the town.

Friar's stories caused great excitement. This desire to find the Indian cities of gold led to the first Spanish exploration of Texas. In 1540, Francisco Vasquez de Coronado set out with 300 men to find the seven cities, under the direction of an Indian called "The Turk." The Spaniards crossed what is now New Mexico, across the Texas plains and as far as present day Kansas, but never found the fabulous wealth of which they dreamed.

As Spain developed its American Empire, it came to see Texas as a northern outpost, an area to be settled and guarded. The Catholic Church began to send churchmen to convert the Indians to Christianity and to help the soldiers and

government officials turn the Texas frontier into a Spanish province. In 1718, a fort and mission were established at what is now San Antonio, in 1730-1731, 400 colonists from the Spanish Canary Islands traveled to San Antonio to establish a community. The Spanish missions, including the Alamo, and the governor's palace are all buildings constructed in the 1700's, which are still standing.

## **FRANCE**

One of the reasons the Spanish decided to colonize Texas was a brief sojourn by the Kingdom of France into Texas. The French wanted land in America. They started with Canada.

In the early 1680's, the explorer Robert Cavalier, Sieur de La Salle sailed down the Mississippi River from Canada. In the spring of 1682, he reached the Gulf of Mexico, and claimed the River and all lands drained by it for the King of France. This was a bold claim, for France had no army or colonists to take this vast area of land. But La Salle tried to turn the claim into a fact. He received permission from the king to begin a settlement at the mouth of the Mississippi River. He started out with a party of 300 persons including soldiers, churchmen, women, and craftsmen. But in sailing through the Gulf of Mexico, he missed the mouth of the Mississippi and sailed instead into Matagorda Bay. One of the ships was wrecked; it was used to build a fort called Fort Saint Louis. Another ship returned to France. Those who stayed at Fort Saint Louis suffered from disease.

La Salle, who had sailed to find the Mississippi in several attempts, decided to try once more again. He took a small party and set off to the new site of what is now Navasota. The men quarreled and La Salle and several others were killed. A few of the men eventually reached French towns in Louisiana. Those left at Fort Saint Louis all died from disease, lack of food, and hostile Indians.

The Spanish eventually hear of the Fort, and sent expeditions to find it. In 1689, after years of unsuccessful trips, one of these expeditions found Indians with items from the Fort, and the Indians led the Spanish to the remnants of the outpost, where the bodies of the French were found. Thus ended the French attempt to colonize Texas.

## **MEXICO**

Spanish rule of Mexico was largely one-sided, with Spain taking from Mexico all it could of the land's great wealth. The Spanish lords and churchmen who ruled Mexico were almost always from the Old World, rather than the new. Mexicans wanted to rule themselves, and an eleven-year rebellion began when Father Manuel Hidalgo raised an army in 1810 and began fighting the Spanish rulers. The revolution continued on throughout South America (though never very strong in Mexico) until the army forced the King of Spain to introduce reforms in Spain itself. When these reforms became known in Mexico, powerful Mexican merchants, army officers, churchmen, and other leaders combined forces to split with Spain.

Augustin Iturbide, an army colonel, established peace with rebel forces and proclaimed the famous Plan of Iquaiia for governing Mexico early in 1821. The

Mexicans were used to royal rulers and tried to get a member of the Spanish royal family to become Emperor of Mexico. None accepted, and Iturbide proclaimed himself emperor. He was a weak ruler, and abdicated in 1823.

The country then became a republic, but again had little success. The leaders of Mexico had no experience in running a democratic nation; the government was not run well, the military had a strong influence on politics, and officials and generals often seized power by controlling the army.

In the midst of this political chaos many colonists began to arrive in Texas from the United States. They came in large numbers, attracted by offers of cheap land made the "impresarios", or land contractors. The impresarios were authorized by the government to offer land for sale at a profit to a restricted number of colonists. The colonists were supposed to be people of good character, who would farm or knew a trade, and were to be governed by the impresario under Mexican law. Colonists were also supposed to be followers of the Roman Catholic Church. The most famous of the impresarios was Stephen F. Austin, who arrived in Mexico City to discuss his new colony with government officials just as Iturbide was rising to power.

Mexican government was suspicious of the American settlers, fearful that they were part of a plot to join Texas with the United States. In 1830, a law was passed intending to stop colonization of Texas by settlers from the United States and to strengthen Mexico's hold on Texas. It created bitter resentment among Anglo colonists. The settlers had two conventions, in 1832 and 1833, to air their grievances and discuss possible solutions such as removing Texas from the state which included Coahuila (to the South) and making Texas a separate state of Mexico. Small bands of settlers began to fight with Mexican authorities.

Austin went to Mexico City to discuss statehood for Texas in 1834. He was arrested and imprisoned for a year. The Mexican government sent an army to Texas to put down all the quarrelsome rebels and keep peace. The Texans answered by forming an army.

On October 2, 1835, fighting began when the Mexicans demanded a cannon at Gonzales and the settlers invited them to "Come and take it." In December 1835, the Texans took over the largest Texas City, San Antonio. On March 1, 1836, while the siege of the Alamo was underway, representatives met at Washington on the Brazos to form a government and, on March 2, declared Texas to be independent of Mexico. The Alamo fell on March 7.

Most of the Texan army, under the command of General Sam Houston, had left Gonzales about the middle of March after learning of the fall of the Alamo. They began to retreat to the east, toward what is now Houston, in the famous "Runaway Scrape." Part of the Mexican army captured the other large contingent of Texans, about 300, after a battle at Goliad. On March 27, these prisoners were executed. By mid April, both the main Texan and Mexican forces had reached the Gulf Coast. On April 21, 1836, while the Mexican army was resting at San Jacinto, the Texan army surprised them, took them prisoner, and won the surrender of General Santa Anna, President of Mexico. This victory ended the Texas war for independence.

## REPUBLIC OF TEXAS

For almost ten years, Texas lived as an independent nation. It was governed by a constitution and legal system based upon that of the United States. It had a Congress consisting of a Senate and a House of Representatives; an executive branch headed by a President who appointed his cabinet, and a judicial system consisting of a three member Supreme Court with local courts under it. Just as in the case of the United States after the Revolution, the Texans chose their chief war her, General Sam Houston, as the first president (Stephen F. Austin, the greatest of the impresarios and the “Father of Texas”, had died in 1836).

As the United States grew, its interest in expanding its borders toward the west increased. It had certain grievances against Mexico, and sought the support of Texas as a buffer against Mexico and as a vital link in a possible expansion westward to California. Most of the settlers in Texas were former U.S. citizens, and were agreeable to the idea of joining the Union. Texas entered into a treaty with the U.S. providing for Texas to be annexed as a state, which occurred in 1845.

The terms of the treaty were very favorable to the new state, which is still the only state ever to have been an independent nation. The State of Texas was permitted to retain ownership of its public lands, which have provided a vast source of income for the good of the state. Also, the Texas Legislature was givens the right, which still survives today, to divide Texas into as many as five separate states.

Imagine a boy who lives in the year 2080 trying to understand the world in which you live. Which things would you tell him are important in your life and in the rest of the state today? Were there tornadoes or hurricanes? Was there a drought? If there was an election for president or governor, who were the candidates? What happened in the NASA space program in Houston? Did the local sports teams have winning seasons?

In picking the year you want to explore, think about some of the periods discussed in the historical sketch under Requirement 3a. Consider whether the time is one of peace or war, good or bad agricultural conditions, industrial boom or downturn. Who were the heroes of the time? The villains?

To uncover the complete story of the year you have chosen, try to talk to people who lived then, if it is not too long ago. See if your local library has newspapers or magazines from that time. Find books which were published that year or the year after (which might have been written during “your” year). These sources will give you lots of information about the year. Discuss some of the most important events. But do not limit yourself to the earthshattering. Include things, which are important to everyday life, such as music, novels, sports, popular notions about health and raising children. How have these things influenced the future of Texas?

**3c. Choose a famous Texan. Tell why you chose that person. Read one or more biographies of this person explain the person’s importance to Texas.**

## **UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Texas entered the union during a turbulent period. As soon as annexation was complete, the United States was at war with Mexico, still being led by its president, Santa Anna. This war ended in 1848, with Mexico releasing its claims to Texas (which it considered disputed territory, even though the Texans had won their freedom years before) and to large areas elsewhere in the West.

But all was not peaceful still. The Union was plagued by disputes between the industrialized, non-slave northern states and the agricultural, slave-owning southern states, which included Texas. In another few years Texans would have to face the decision of whether to join the other Southern states in seceding from the Union. The issue was difficult for Texans, and left many friends divided. Sam Houston, who had now also served Texas as senator and was governor when war broke out, was against breaking away from the Union. But the spirit of the South carried the day and Texas joined the Confederate States of America in 1861.

## **CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA**

For five years, from 1861 to 1865, Texas was one of the eleven Confederate states. It supplied the Confederacy with agricultural products, exports and brave soldiers, including men like Albert Sidney Johnston and John B. Hood, the leader of Hood's Texas brigade, one of Robert E. Lee's most prized fighting units. The last battle of the Civil War was fought in Texas, at Palmetto Ranch near Brownsville, in May, 1865.

As with the rest of the South, five unsuccessful years of war, with its best men away from their farms, businesses, trades and homes, was ruinous. Texas suffered great economic hardships during the reconstruction years immediately following the war.

## **INTO THE TWENTIETH CENTURY**

The waning year of the 1800's saw the beginnings of many of the new industries, which would lead Texas into the forefront of economic life in the modern world. The cattle industry, interrupted by the war, began to flourish. Railroads made transportation across the great state and into neighboring states easier, foretelling of a day when super highways would allow transportation across roads of cement instead of steel rails. The oil and gas industry began to develop. The famous state university system opened in 1876.

**3b. Pick any year before 1960. Describe important events that happened in Texas that year and how they influenced the future of Texas.**

Texas has been home to scores of admirable men and women in all kinds of professions and endeavors. Some of the famous people who have lived in Texas in some time during their lives are listed below.

**PIONEERS AND COWMAN**

Moses Austin  
Stephen F. Austin  
Baron de Bastrop  
Jesse Chisholm  
Charles Goodnight  
Jane Long  
Samuel A. Maverick  
Ben Milam  
Lorenzo de Zavala

**STATESMEN**

Tom Clark  
John Nance Garner  
John Hemphill  
James Hogg  
Edward House  
Lyndon B. Johnson  
Anson Jones  
Mirabeau B. Lamar  
Sam Rayburn  
John H. Reagan  
Thomas J. Rusk  
Ashbel Smith

**AUTHORS**

Eugene C. Barker  
Roy Bedicheck  
J. Frank Dobie  
T. R. Fehrenbach  
Joe B. Frantz  
J. Evetts Haley  
Katherine Ann Porter  
Rupert N. Richardson  
Francis X. Tolbert  
Walter Prescott Webb

**MILITARY MEN**

James B. Bonham  
James Bowie  
David Crockett  
James W. Fannin, Sr.  
John S. "Rip" Ford  
John B. Hood  
Sam Houston  
Albert Sidney Johnston  
Ben McCulloch  
Audie Murphy  
Chester W. Minitz  
Erastus "Deal" Smith  
William B. Travis

**BUSINESSMEN**

George W. Brackenridge  
George Brown  
Amon Carter  
James A. Elkins  
Howard Hughes  
Jesse Jones  
Harry Landa  
Thomas F. McKinney  
Samuel May Williams

**ARTISTS**

Elisabet Ney  
Julian Onderdonk  
Pompeo Choppini

**INDIANS**

Iron Jacket  
Satanta  
Quanah Parker

**3d. I. Identify a site or trail in Texas of historical significance. Tell why it is important to Texas history. II. With one or more companions, hike for at least two miles near the site OR camp overnight at or near the site.**

Though time marches on, we can often identify the spot where historical events took place. In Europe and Asia there are places where man can place specific events as having occurred hundreds or even thousands of years ago. In Texas, we can go back several thousand years to the resting-places of ancient men. But these discoveries are of pre-historic man. Our knowledge of places which have some historical facts concerning the location go back only about 300 years, to the early missions near Goliad, Nacogdoches, and San Antonio.

Historical sites offer great opportunities for service projects in repairing or improving the site or staging a historical pageant. Imagine the scene related to the raising of the first church in the county, signing of a peace treaty with the Indians, last campfire along a stretch of a long-deserted cattle trail – recreate the scene with your unit in a pageant at the historical site as part of your camp or hike there.

**3e. Assist a volunteer organization which, preserves or perpetuates Texas history or culture by performing a service project (approved by your counselor) for at least 3 hours.**

The work of preserving the heritage of Texas history and culture is largely done by volunteer organizations.

The Texas State Historical Association is the state's oldest historical group. It sponsors many scholarly activities, including meetings and a quarterly journal, as well as the Texas Junior Historians and organization of junior high school, middle school, and high school students interested in Texas history.

The Daughters of the Republic of Texas are best known for their work in preserving certain historical sites, including the Alamo. This group, along with The Sons of the Republic of Texas, is composed of descendants of Texan pioneers.

Two groups which seek to perpetuate Texas military history by appearing in buckskin, homespun and 1840's uniforms are the Guard of the Republic and the Texas Army. Their shows are colorful and interesting.

County and city historical associations often maintain libraries, parks, historical sites, museums and exhibits and put on events highlighting local history.

**4a. Identify an Indian tribe which, at any time, lived, camped or hunted near your community. Report on its culture.**

Long before Europeans came to Texas, Indians lived throughout the state. These Indians pursued a wide variety of lifestyles. The early Coahuiltecan were nomads who scratched out a bare existence farming and hunting buffalo, deer and smaller game. The fierce Karankawa who lived along the Gulf Coast were often characterized as large (many over 6 feet tall) and terrible to see when decorated for battle with their faces painted half red, half black. They moved along the coast by canoe, enjoying the bounty of the sea and shore. The Tonkawa of the central part of the state and the Comanche, Kiowa and Kiowa Apache of the plains were nomadic buffalo hunters, whose lot changed as the horse was introduced into Texas. The Tonkawa were caught between two aggressive forces in Texas development, the ever expanding settlement brought by Mexican and Anglo settlers and the fierce marauding of the Comanches; the Tonkawa eventually disappeared somewhere between these groups. The plains tribes were often at war with the settlers, until the final battles of the Texas Indian wars in the 1860's.

As early as the Texas Republic (1836-1845) Texas Indians who had been won over (whether by peaceful or forceful means) had been moved around within Texas and to outside reservations. Indians from the East were also forced to move to Texas. Thus Seminoles, Alabama, Coushatta, Delaware, and other tribes lived in Texas for a time – some to this very day.

The Indians of Texas were a diverse group. It would be a mistake to just lump them all together and imagine that each tribe looked and lived just like the other. Many tribes were very different from the Indian which most of the public thinks of in feathers, leggings, warshirt, and paint, riding a spotted pony chasing buffalo. A number of the tribes wore very little clothing – only enough for protection, rather than for ornament or status. Most tribes were generally friendly, and often welcomed settlers and missionaries who helped the tribe improve its farming.

Studying the traditions and habits of the Indians who lived in your neighborhood may give you valuable insights into how the land on which you live was used by those who came before. Learning about your local Indians could teach you survival and camping techniques on how to prepare shelters, clothing, and food from native materials.

**4b. I. Choose any ethnic group (other than the Indians in requirement 4a) of which you are not a member. Give a brief history of the group and tell of any special customs and observances it has. II. Participate in and describe at least one special observance, feast or holiday this group celebrates, and explain its origin. III. Prepare one traditional food of this group to serve four people.**

Texas is fortunate in being a part of the American melting pot of civilizations from all over the world. Texans come from a wide variety of races, religions and nationalities. Each of these groups has its own customs and observances. You may have participated in some of these festivals such as the Mexican “Fiesta” in

San Antonio in the spring or the German “Wurstfest” in New Braunfels in October. And think of all the special days which these groups celebrate: the Jewish and Chinese New Year’s, St. Patrick’s Day, St. George’s Day, Cinco de Mayo (the 5<sup>th</sup> of May), and Martin Luther King’s Birthday. How lucky to be able to join in someone else’s fun!

**4c. Read at least one book (fiction or non-fiction) by a Texas author on a Texas subject (in addition to the biography for requirement 3) OR read at least three short stories by one or more Texas authors on Texas subjects, or read at least three poems by one or more Texas authors on Texas subjects.**

Texas has been home to many famous authors, some of whom are listed with requirement 3c. A number of these authors have found our state to be the most interesting topic they could choose to write about, so there are many books, short stories and poems about Texas to read and enjoy.

**4d. Describe the work of five volunteer groups, which in some way support cultural activities in Texas.**

Local groups of citizens who are interested in the arts and letters often bank together in-groups to support their common interest. Each city in Texas and many towns and counties have organizations dedicated to learning through libraries, symphonies, operas, historical studies, literary publications, art museums, nature and history museums and more. What groups in your community support these activities? Which of these activities have you participated in or visited? How do these organizations raise money, and where does the money go? Is there a group, which you would like to join?

### **HELPFUL RESOURCES**

When working on this award, try your school librarian and history teachers as resources. They will be glad to assist you in finding the kinds of materials you need to complete the award requirements.

Some books you may want to refer to are Texas and Texans by Adrian N. Anderson and Ralph A. Wooster, Texas, The Lone Star State by Rupert N. Richardson, et al, and the encyclopedia of Texas, The Handbook of Texas, edited by W. P. Webb and H. B. Carroll.

## APPLICATION FOR TEXAS AWARD

This certifies that \_\_\_\_\_ has qualified for the Texas Award and has been approved by his unit leader.

Unit Leader: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

This certifies that the above-named scout has passed all of the requirements for the Texas Award.

Counselor: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

APPLICATIONS FOR THE TEXAS AWARD SHOULD BE SENT TO:

**Service Center  
Boy Scouts of America  
PO Box 54190  
Hurst, TX 76054**

\$3.00 for each patch; \$0.50 extra for postage per patch

Make checks payable to LHC, B.S.A. (no credit cards will be accepted on Texas badges)