

SENIOR TRAVELER BADGE

Badge Purpose: When you’ve earned this badge, you’ll know how to plan a great trip of at least one night—whether it’s around the corner or across the globe.

Activity	Materials Needed
Near and Far • Research places you’d like to visit.	<input type="checkbox"/> Computer with internet access or pen and paper
Sights to See • Create itineraries for your destinations.	<input type="checkbox"/> Phone or computer with internet access, or pen and paper
Travel Funds • Make a budget for your trip.	<input type="checkbox"/> Itineraries from Activity #2 <input type="checkbox"/> Budget worksheet
Know Before You Go • Prepare for the unexpected and figure out what you need to know before you go on your trip.	<input type="checkbox"/> Computer with internet access <input type="checkbox"/> Pen and paper
Make It Memorable • Keep a journal and visual record of your trip.	<input type="checkbox"/> Journal and pen <input type="checkbox"/> Phone with internet access

Getting Started

- If your troop is planning on taking a troop trip, you can use these activities to plan your travels and earn the badge at the same time.

Activity #1: Near and Far

Badge Connection: Step 1 – Research destinations

Materials Needed: Computer with internet access or pen and paper

1. Make a list of places you’d like to journey to; this list doesn’t necessarily have to be realistic (Mars, anyone?), it can just be a jumping off point to discover things you didn’t know you were interested in (maybe you won’t nab that one-way ticket to the Red Planet, but set your sights on a trip to the Space Center Houston or the National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C.).
2. For one list, research local or regional destinations. For the other, compile a list of international places you’d like to see and explore.

Activity #2: Sights to See

Badge Connection: Step 2 – Look into fun itineraries

Materials Needed: Phone or computer with internet access, or pen and paper



1. There are a lot of apps now that make travel planning a breeze. Find one that works for you. (Some popular ones are TripIt and Google Trips).
2. Using the list you created in Activity #1, pick one local/regional and one international destination. Then, using the app, create an itinerary for each location.
3. When making your itinerary, keep these tips in mind:
 - Decide how long you want to travel for. The length of your trip will limit or allow for the places you're ultimately able to visit. If you have just one day in New York City, for example, you probably won't be able to go to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, shop in SoHo, walk around Central Park, and see Williamsburg.
 - Figure out what you want to see—separate places into “must-sees” and “if there's time” to ensure you hit up your top spots rather than cramming in everything possible.
 - Determine how you'll get to your destination (train, plane, automobile?), and how you'll get around once you're there (walking, Uber, public transit?).
 - Make sure that the places you want to visit are open on the day(s) you plan on visiting.

Activity #3: Travel Funds

Badge Connection: Step 3 – Find out how to create a budget, including ways to travel inexpensively

Materials Needed: Itineraries from Activity #2; budget worksheet

1. Pick one of the itineraries you created in Activity #2, and figure out how much your trip is ultimately going to cost. Use the budget worksheet at the end of this activity plan, or create your own.
2. Once you've priced everything out, ask for a second opinion—find a friend or family member who travels often to check if your budget is reasonable for your trip. Maybe this is a once-in-a-lifetime trip to Modena and you scored reservations at the three-star Michelin restaurant. It's going to cost more, but you're okay with that. Or, maybe you decide that you don't need to stay at the Four Seasons for your trip to Phoenix so you can save funds for a future trip.
3. If your trip exceeds your budget, figure out what you can nix, condense, or streamline in your itinerary to meet your budget. Stay at a hostel instead of a hotel, use public transit instead of Uber, check out free or low-cost attractions, cut your trip short by one day, etc.

Activity #4: Know Before You Go

Badge Connection: Step 4 – Gain travel expertise before you go

Materials Needed: Computer with internet access; pen and paper

1. Even seasoned travelers can get flustered when the unexpected happens. Preparing for those inevitable bumps in the road can help ensure you steer the course smoothly.
2. Before you embark on your adventure, make a checklist of tasks to take care of before you travel, like:
 - If you're travelling internationally, do you have a passport?
 - Will you need an entry visa for your destination?
 - Do you speak the local language? If not, learn a few basic phrases like, “hello,” “thank you,” “please,” and “I'm lost.”
 - Does the CDC have any recommended vaccinations and health considerations for your destination?
 - Will you need to exchange currency?
 - Are there any cultural considerations you'll need to keep in mind (for example, if you're traveling in the Middle East, it's a good rule of thumb to pack modest clothing, even in the summer).
3. Then, create a safety cheat sheet to use when you travel, including things like:
 - How do I contact the police?



- What emergency help (like a hospital or urgent care center) is available around my hotel/hostel/lodging?

Activity #5: Make It Memorable

Badge Connection: Step 5 – Take your trip—and make a memory

Materials Needed: Journal and pen; phone with internet access

1. You've put in a lot of effort planning your trip—you want to make sure you remember all the fun (and maybe not as fun!) times you had.
2. Before you go on your trip, plan to keep a reflection journal for your time traveling. When you have downtime, or to unwind at night, record:
 - What went well today?
 - What was challenging?
 - What was the highlight of the day?
 - Did I learn something new?
 - What surprised me today?
3. To keep a visual reminder of your trip, create a 1 second everyday video (use the app 1se.co) for each day of your travels.



