



**TRAIL
LIFE
USA**

Cinematography

Name _____

Do all of the following requirements (1-3)

- ____1. Learn the parts and functions of your video camera and basic video camera techniques. Do the following:
- ____a. Identify the listed video camera parts and demonstrate their use: power connector, power button, battery, microphone, lens, zoom buttons, focus, and controls (start, stop, play, record)
 - ____b. Using a tripod, pan the camera left and right and in and out several times at different speeds to learn what is too fast or too slow. Practice panning and then demonstrate panning smoothly.
 - ____c. Explain when you would want to use a tripod, and when you would want to hand hold the camera. Shoot a scene both ways, and explain the difference.
 - ____d. Learn about shot composition, and demonstrate how to position a person in the video image. Explain what happens when a person is not properly framed such as cutting off tops of heads, looking off screen, too much area over the head, etc.
 - ____e. Practice zooming the image in and out, and describe when you would want to zoom fast or slow. Determine if the image shakes more when you are zoomed in or zoomed out. Explain why it might be a better idea to move the camera closer than to use the zoom function.
- ____2. Using a Trail Life Ceremony (e.g. opening or closing of a meeting, flag ceremony), learn how to create storyboards, and then shoot video using them as a guide.
- ____a. Create a storyboard of how you intend to videotape the event. The storyboard should include pictures of what you are going to shoot, how you plan to shoot them (camera angle, close up shots, etc.) and descriptions of what is happening in the segments.

- _____b. Videotape the ceremony using the storyboard as your guide.
 - _____c. Explain how the storyboard helped you plan the videotaping, and describe what you wished you had included in the storyboard.
- _____3. By yourself or with a buddy, create a short film of at least 5 minutes duration, and show it.
- _____a. Develop a story concept.
 - _____b. Write a script for the show and include, as appropriate, music, costumes, props and sound effects.
 - _____c. Create storyboards of how you will film it.
 - _____d. Film the story using a video camera and then edit it using video editing software.

To be a good citizen, you must live in the past, present and future. Do three of the following optional requirements (4-11)

- _____4. Research the film ratings system.
- _____a. Explain what the symbols mean.
 - _____b. Explain when the system was developed and why.
 - _____c. Explain how the system has changed over the years.
 - _____d. Describe your opinion of the helpfulness and accuracy of the rating system.
- _____5. Find out what the terms "blue screen" and "green screen" refer to and describe how it works. Watch a documentary on the making of a movie that uses this technology.
- _____6. Watch a movie and notice the special effects, including makeup. Learn about how and when special effects are added.
- _____7. Watch a silent movie. Discuss the accommodations filmmakers made for lack of sound. Choose a campfire skit or write one of your own, turn it into a silent movie, and present it.
- _____8. Choose a product. Write and videotape a thirty-second commercial. Edit your commercial using a computer program.

- _____9. Learn about different careers in the movie or video fields. Give a brief explanation of the following jobs: actor, director, producer, cinematographer, key grip, gaffer, best boy, film editor, sound designer, costume designer and set designer. Choose three of these careers and find out what kind of education is required and what salary one might expect.
- _____10. Tour a video production facility or TV station to learn about sets, lighting, editing and the people that work there.
- _____11. Practice making different sound effects (for example, twist a thin cookie sheet for thunder). Demonstrate ways to make at least three more sounds.

Trail Badge Mentor Signature

Date

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