

Mining in Society Merit Badge Resources

The BSA Mining in Society Merit Badge Pamphlet (requirement 5) offers Scouts the opportunity to tour a mine or to learn about how mines work. Touring a mine is an event that each Scout should experience, if at all possible. (Aggregates mines are located in all 50 states). However, many options are offered to Scouts who aren't able to tour a mine. Option 5a suggests the Scout to take a virtual mine tour. The following resources can be used to fulfill that requirement:



Surface Mining:

The following video links provide examples of surface mining, including operations extracting coal and metallic ores.

[Virtual Tour of Black Thunder Coal Mine \(Arch Coal\)](#)



This is the largest single surface coal-mining complex in the world. Located in northeastern Wyoming, the mine's 1,600 highly skilled employees are proud to provide 12% of America's affordable coal supply each year while also operating safely, protecting the environment and enhancing local communities.

[Virtual Field Trips \(Freeport-McMoRan\)](#)

Dig Into Mining: The Story of Copper by Freeport-McMoRan and Discovery Education contains archived [virtual field trips](#) with videos from the Morenci Mine.

Underground Mining:

[Pioneering Underground Mining \(Joy Global\)](#)



Joy Mining Machinery presents "Pioneering Underground Mining" describing the layout of room and pillar and longwall mines, and machines used in each of these mining systems.

[How Do They Do It Coal Mining Video](#)



Video provides an overview of underground coal mining using the Bailey/Enlow Fork mines in Pennsylvania as examples of room and pillar and longwall mining. Coal cleaning is also addressed.

- more -

[Selected Segments-Underground Coal Mining \(Alpha Natural Resources\)](#)

Alpha Natural Resources has provided the following video segments that highlight the activities and machinery used in underground room and pillar coal mining:



[Workers entering a coal mine](#)



[Remote controlled continuous miner](#) (extracting coal and shuttle car in action removing the mined coal from the coal face)



[Removing coal from a mine](#) (close-up of continuous miner loading shuttle car)



[Supporting mine roof with roof bolts](#)



[Loading coal into trucks](#)