



Earn your **EAGLE REQUIRED** Mountain Biking (aka trail or mixed surface biking) Cycling Merit Badge (Option B) at The Scottsdale McDowell Sonoran Preserve. We will be using the Pima/Dynamite Trailhead as our base.

The Scottsdale McDowell Sonoran Preserve is a large, permanently protected, sustainable desert habitat that includes an interconnected network of non-motorized, multi-use trails (hike/bike/horse) accessed from multiple trailhead locations.

Are you new to mountain biking? Looking to refresh your skills, improve your technique, enhance safety awareness and increase your overall enjoyment on the trails? Then come prepared with a mountain/gravel bike with knobby tires, a bell, helmet, water, and snacks. We begin with a demonstration and presentation by experienced riders covering the basic things you need to know, equipment requirements and trail etiquette.

The instructional segment will be followed by a guided ride, where you can practice the techniques discussed. Please, no road bikes, hybrids, or folding bikes. Please check the working order of your bike before you leave home. Allow 3 hours for the initial events. Bring water for the trail. Arrive 15 minutes before sessions start.

This merit badge is for any Scout aged 12 or older who would like to earn their cycling merit badge for mountain biking (Option B). Parents/guardians are welcome to participate free of charge. Scouts and parents/guardians must be realistic about their fitness level. Please be mindful of you and your Scouts' physical abilities before signing up for this merit badge.

This event will include a combination of outdoor/hands on classroom learning and physical mountain bike trail riding.

The cost is \$12 per participant.

Sign up by Friday September 5, 2025, for early bird pricing of \$10 per youth participant. Registration closes Friday September 26, 2025.

Participants should bring:

- Bike with wide knobby tires fitted with a bell (**NO ELECTRIC BIKES**)
- Bike helmet
- Wear athletic clothing
- Water, trail snacks
- Sunscreen
- Signed medical form parts AB&C including completion of physical examination using the Scout medical examination form with health care provider signature.



All sessions are required to complete the merit badge. All dates are below, please plan accordingly.

Saturday October 11, 2025 – Rides 1 & 2 (2 miles & 2 miles)
Saturday October 18, 2025 – Ride 3 (5 miles)
Saturday October 25, 2025 – Ride 4 (5 miles)
Saturday November 1, 2025 – Ride 5 (8 miles)
Saturday November 29, 2025 – Ride 6 (8 miles)
Saturday December 13, 2025 – Ride 7 (22 miles)

IF RAINING, OR IF TRAILS ARE SATURATED, WE WILL NOT RIDE. THE SESSION FOR THAT DAY WILL BE RESCHEDULED.

Prior to registering, each Scout should discuss the merit badge with their Scoutmaster and follow the standard “blue card” process. In this case the Scoutmaster should complete the “Initial Unit Leader Signature” block in Scoutbook. To connect the Scout to the merit badge counselor, Mr. Twaddell, search for “Graham Twaddell” BSA ID – 12369213 or email: gtwaddellaz@gmail.com

If you have any questions about this event, please contact Graham Twaddell at gtwaddellaz@gmail.com or 480-241-3232

The location is the Pima/Dynamite Trailhead: 28777 N Pima Road, Scottsdale, AZ 85262

Best entrance is off Pima Road, north from Dynamite.

33° 44' 32.96"N, 111° 53' 15.23"W



<https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/cycling/>