



NOTES : American Indian Culture Merit Badge

Grand Canyon Council Virtual Merit Badge Class

This virtual Merit Badge Session will be offered **May7, 2026 6:30-8:30PM MST**

Pre-Req (DELIVERABLE) #2 is due May 4 to me @ charles616@aol.com

QUESTIONS: Charles Daschbach charles616@aol.com

This Merit Badge honors the traditions, cultures and heritage of American indigenous tribes that lived in North America 5000 – 10,000 years before Columbus discovered the New World and the subsequent founding of our colonies at the beginning of the United States of America 250 years ago.

Today, there are over 575 separate American Indian Tribes federally recognized into Sovereign states on 326 designated Reservations, speaking over 175 Languages.

The Merit Badge reflects a shift towards greater respect, accuracy, and engagement with the Native American tribal histories and cultures, focusing on authentic learning, a change discussed for years in Scouting at many levels. Native American culture and individuals have significantly influenced Scouting America since our 1910 founding, shaping its core philosophy, honors societies, and educational programs.

Requirements emphasize learning about different cultural areas, specific tribes, their governments, languages, and contemporary life, moving away from romanticized or misappropriated activities.

We will spend time in the Session reviewing the 5 Requirements:

#1... American Indian geographical cultural areas in the United States

#3... Common terms in languages and five well-known American Indian leaders

#4 ...Contributions made by American Indians to Settlers and Colonists and our modern life

#5 ...(Pick ONE OF THESE) VISIT A MUSEUM or a GATHRINHG or a POW WOW MUSEUM

In the MB Session we will take a Virtual Tour of the National Museum of the American Indian and view 10 artifacts TOGETHER and DISCUSS !! (<https://americanindian.si.edu/>)

#2...

The main REQUIREMENT #2 should be done by March 20 and sent to Charles Daschbach
Charles616@aol. com

it asks the Scout to conduct. **“Research on American Indian tribe, group, or nation.”**

It gives a list of 17 cultural aspects for a Tribe and the workbook gives a check list each element with a short space to fill out...

(...traditional dwellings, way of life, tribal government, religious beliefs, family and clan relationships, language, clothing styles, arts and crafts, food cultivation, foraging and preparation, means of getting around, games, customs in warfare, and where and how they live today.)

You may select any Tribe, Clan, or Nation from the 575 federal tribes... It can be one in your area, when you visited once, or one you’re curious about from reading or the movies.

You may fill out these items on the workbook... Or I might suggest you write a 250 word narrative about YOUR TRIBE’S STORY... That includes as many of these elements you can find.

All tribes have a story!

And their story tells who they are. All stories have certain themes or common elements that include (in no order of importance!)

- A. Their land
- B. Their origin
- C. Their spirituality and beliefs
- D. Their families especially the role of mothers and women
- E. Their ceremonies and spirituality
- F. Their connection to their animals
- G. Their values of Honor, Respect, and Tradition

Be PREPARED “Tell the STORY OF YOUR TRIBE to the Session Scouts !