

MERIT BADGE TRAIL DRIVE 2025:

Prerequisites & Resources By Class

Classes are listed below alphabetically.

For classes offered by multiple counselors, find the one with your counselor listed by the name.

Downloadable Merit Badge Pamphlets are listed for every class.

If a class has prerequisites to completing the badge, they are listed below.



American Cultures (Julie Loya)

Pamphlet:

https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/Merit_Badge_ReqandRes/Pamphlets/American%20Cultures_2025.pdf

Art (Ron Byrd)

Pamphlet: https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/Merit_Badge_ReqandRes/Pamphlets/Art_2025.pdf

Please complete the following requirements before class.

6 - Visit a museum

Athletics (Michael Silva)

See - "Sports & Athletics"

Bird Study (Brittany Wensky)

Pamphlet: https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/Merit_Badge_ReqandRes/Pamphlets/Bird%20Study_2025.pdf

Chess (Jeff Walton)

Pamphlet: https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/Merit_Badge_ReqandRes/Pamphlets/Chess_2025.pdf

Citizenship in Society (Kimberly Lopez)

Pamphlet: <https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/citizenship-in-society/>

Citizenship in the Community (Scott Wong)

Pamphlet:

https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/Merit_Badge_ReqandRes/Pamphlets/Citizenship%20in%20the%20Community_2024.pdf

Coin Collecting (Patrick Carpenter)

Pamphlet: https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/Merit_Badge_RegandRes/Pamphlets/Coin%20Collecting_2024.pdf

Cooking (Jeremy White)

Pamphlet: https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/Merit_Badge_RegandRes/Pamphlets/Cooking_2023.pdf

Crime Prevention (Theresa Hernandez)

Pamphlet: https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/Merit_Badge_RegandRes/Pamphlets/Crime%20Prevention_2019.pdf

Please perform the following workbook numbers prior to attending Merit Badge Weekend. We will discuss what you have completed during class.

2 - Prepare a journal from various sources that addresses crime and crime prevention efforts in your community.

4 - Do BOTH of the following:

A - Inspect your neighborhood for opportunities that may lead to crime. Learn to do a crime prevention survey.

B - Using the checklist in the (the merit badge) pamphlet, conduct a security survey of your home and discuss the results with your family. (A copy of the Home Safety Checklist can be found at the end of this workbook.)

Electricity (Elijah Mayeux)

Pamphlet: https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/Merit_Badge_RegandRes/Pamphlets/Electricity_2021.pdf

Emergency Preparedness (Courtney Hughes-Plocher)

Pamphlet:

https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/Merit_Badge_RegandRes/Pamphlets/Emergency%20Preparedness_2025.pdf

Please complete the following prior to the class:

3C - Build a disaster kit

Family Life (Gary Eck)

Pamphlet: https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/Merit_Badge_RegandRes/Pamphlets/Family%20Life_2025.pdf

Must come with prerequisites completed:

3 - Prepare a list of your regular home duties or chores (at least five) and do them for 90 days. Keep a record of how often you do each of them. Discuss with your counselor the effect your chores had on your family.

4 - With the approval of your parent or guardian and your counselor, decide on and carry out an individual project that you would do around the home that would benefit your family. After completion, discuss the objective or goal and the results of the project with your family and then your counselor.

5 - Plan and carry out a project that involves the participation of your family. After completing the project, discuss the following with your counselor: (a) The objective or goal of the project, (b) How individual members of your family participated, (c) The results of the project.

6 - Do the following (discussion of each of these subjects may carry over to more than one family meeting): (a) Discuss with your counselor how to plan and carry out a family meeting, (b) Prepare a meeting agenda that includes the following topics, review it with your parent or guardian, and then carry out one or more family meetings: Note: Discussion of each of these subjects will very likely carry over to more than one family meeting. (1) How living the principles of the Scout Oath and Scout Law contributes to your family life, (2) The greatest dangers and addictions facing youth in today's society (examples include mental health challenges, use of tobacco products, alcohol, or drugs and other items such as debts, social media, etc.), (3) The growing-up process and how the body changes, and making responsible decisions dealing with sex. This conversation may take place with only one parent or guardian., (4) Personal and family finances, (5) A crisis

situation within your family and whom you can turn to for support during these situations., (6) The effect of technology on your family, (7) Good etiquette and manners.

Fish & Wildlife Management (Brittany Wensky)

Pamphlet: https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/Merit_Badge_RegandRes/Pamphlets/Fish%20and%20Wildlife_2024.pdf

Health Care Professions (Julie Loya)

Pamphlet:

https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/Merit_Badge_RegandRes/Pamphlets/Health%20Care%20Professions_2022.pdf

Please complete the follow prior to the class:

9 - Serve as a volunteer at a health related event or facility in your community

Personal Management (Scott Wong)

Pamphlet:

https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/Merit_Badge_RegandRes/Pamphlets/Personal%20Management_2025.pdf

Pets (Laura Burnett)

Pamphlet: https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/Merit_Badge_RegandRes/Pamphlets/Pets_2024.pdf

Bring proof of 4 months of Pet Care.

Photography (Theresa Hernandez)

Pamphlet: https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/Merit_Badge_RegandRes/Pamphlets/Photography_2020.pdf

Please perform the following workbook numbers prior to attending Merit Badge Weekend. We will discuss what you have completed during class.

1A - View the Personal Safety Awareness "Digital Safety" video (with your parent or guardian's permission)

4 - Do TWO of the following, then share your work with your counselor.

A - Photograph one subject from two different angles or perspectives.

B - Photograph one subject from two different light sources - artificial and natural.

C - Photograph one subject with two different depths of field.

D - Photograph one subject with two different compositional techniques.

5 - Photograph THREE of the following, then share your work with your counselor

A - Close-up of a person

B - Two to three people interacting

C - Action shot

D - Animal shot.

E - Nature shot

F - Picture of a person - candid, posed, or camera aware

6 - Select a photo you have taken, then do ONE of the following, and share what you have done with your counselor.

A - Crop your photograph.

B - Adjust the exposure or make a color correction.

C - Show another way you could improve your picture for impact.

7 - Using images other than those created for requirements 4, 5, and 6, produce a visual story to document an event to photograph OR choose a topic that interests you to photograph. Do the following:

- A - Plan the images you need to photograph for your photo story.
- B - Share your plan with your counselor, and get your counselor's input and approval before you proceed.
- C - Will be completed after first class

Photography (KC Baltz)

Pamphlet: https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/Merit_Badge_RegandRes/Pamphlets/Photography_2020.pdf

Scouts need to bring a camera.

Public Speaking (Linda Paumer)

Pamphlet: https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/Merit_Badge_RegandRes/Pamphlets/Public%20Speaking_2020.pdf

Read the public speaking mb booklet and come prepared to be a speaker.

The speaking requirements are detailed below. To complete this badge on Sep 6th, you will need to come prepared with the two speeches (#1 & #4) and have thought about things you can say for #1.

- 1) Give a three- to five-minute introduction of yourself
- 2) Prepare a three- to five-minute talk on a topic of your choice that incorporates body language and visual aids. Give this to the class.
- 3) Impromptu talk of at least two minutes, as part of a group discussion. The topics will be selected by the counselor and not known in advance and for which you do not have time to prepare
- 4). An 8-10-minute speech delivered in a conversational way. Select a topic of interest to your audience and collect and organize information about this topic and prepare an outline. This is something you should prepare prior to the class meeting and plan on presenting at the session.

The last requirement (#5) is on parliamentary procedure and will be reviewed in class.

Pulp & Paper (Susanne Latham)

Pamphlet:

https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/Merit_Badge_RegandRes/Pamphlets/Pulp-Paper-2025-requirements.pdf

Radio (Richard Linton)

Pamphlet: https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/Merit_Badge_RegandRes/Pamphlets/Radio_2025.pdf

Scouting Heritage (Linda Paumer)

Pamphlet: https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/Merit_Badge_RegandRes/Pamphlets/Scouting%20Heritage_2024.pdf

1. Read the scouting heritage mb booklet and come prepared to talk about the biographical information presented.
2. Come prepared to review an old game.
3. Come prepared to interview others.
4. Have a plan for how you will complete the requirements below. Either bring written reports to the merit badge class or plan on presenting these at a later date:

#4 – Do ONE of the following:

- a. Attend either a BSA national jamboree, OR world Scout jamboree, OR a national BSA high-adventure base. While there, keep a journal documenting your day-to-day experiences. Upon your return, report to your counselor what you did, saw, and learned. You may include photos, brochures, and other documents in your report.
- b. Write or visit the National Scouting Museum. Obtain information about this facility. Give a short report on what you think the role of this museum is in the Scouting program.

c. Visit an exhibit of Scouting memorabilia or a local museum with a Scouting history gallery, or (with your parent's permission and counselor's approval) visit with someone in your council who is recognized as a dedicated Scouting historian or memorabilia collector. Learn what you can about the history of the BSA. Give a short report to your

#5: Learn about the history of your unit or Scouting in your area. Interview at least two people (one from the past and one from the present) associated with your troop. These individuals could be adult unit leaders, Scouts, troop committee members, or representatives of your troop's chartered organization. Find out when your unit was originally chartered. Create a report of your findings on the history of your troop, and present it to your patrol or troop or at a court of honor, and then add it to the troop's library. This presentation could be in the form of an oral/written report, an exhibit, a scrapbook, or a computer presentation such as a slide show.

5. For requirement #6, bring your collection to share with the class.

#6. Make a collection of some of your personal patches and other Scouting memorabilia. With their permission, you may include items borrowed from family members or friends who have been in Scouting in the past, or you may include photographs of these items. Show this collection to your counselor, and share what you have learned about items in the collection. (There is no requirement regarding how large or small this collection must be.)

Signs, Signals, & Codes (Richard Linton)

Pamphlet:

https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/Merit_Badge_ReqandRes/Pamphlets/Signs%20Signals%20Codes_2025.pdf

Sports & Athletics (Michael Silva)

Pamphlet (Sport): https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/Merit_Badge_ReqandRes/Pamphlets/Sports_2023.pdf

Pamphlet (Athletics):

https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/Merit_Badge_ReqandRes/Pamphlets/Athletics%20text%202-2025.pdf

Will accept sports activity that occurred while the youth was in Scouts

Sustainability (Dawn Sullivan)

Pamphlet: https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/Merit_Badge_ReqandRes/Pamphlets/Sustainability_2024.pdf

Read the merit badge pamphlet BEFORE attending the course.

Sustainability (partial) (Yael Teff-Seker)

Pamphlet: https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/Merit_Badge_ReqandRes/Pamphlets/Sustainability_2024.pdf

Read the merit badge pamphlet BEFORE attending the course.

Theater (Lisa Lindquist)

Pamphlet: https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/Merit_Badge_ReqandRes/Pamphlets/Theater_2025.pdf

Weather (Ron Byrd)

Pamphlet: https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/Merit_Badge_ReqandRes/Pamphlets/Weather_2025.pdf

Please complete the following before class.

9 - Do ONE of the following:

A - Make one of the following instruments: wind vane, anemometer, rain gauge, hygrometer. Keep a daily weather log for one week using information from this instrument as well as from other sources such as local radio and television stations, NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards, and internet sources (with your parent or guardian's permission). Record the following

information at the same time every day: wind direction and speed, temperature, precipitation, and types of clouds. Be sure to make a note of any morning dew or frost. In the log, also list the weather forecasts from radio or television at the same time each day and show how the weather really turned out.

B - Visit a National Weather Service office or talk with a local radio or television weathercaster, private meteorologist, local agricultural extension service officer, or university meteorology instructor. Find out what type of weather is most dangerous or damaging to your community. Determine how severe weather and flood warnings reach the homes in your community.