

Merit Badge Midway – Saturday, November 7, 2026

Half day Sessions

Game Design AM – Morning ONLY

Dawn Goodman - Counselor



Class size 12 per session

No prerequisites. Participants please review the requirements.

Electronics - AM - Morning Only

Brian Atwater - Counselor



Class size 10

Come prepared to discuss requirement 7

Railroading - PM – Afternoon ONLY

Robert Foster - Counselor



Class size 15

Railroading Requirement 7. . Select ONE of the following special-interest areas & complete the requirements.

Suggested to complete 7a(3) and 7a(8), either of those can be discussed in person on the day of the midway.

If 7a 3 and 7a8 are chosen and completed the participant should be able to receive MB that day.

Resources

7a – Golden Empire Model Train Club. Located in Downtown Bakersfield, club members have the expertise to assist in completing many of the sub-requirements. Club can be reached via email – Doug Wagner carldw@aol.com.

7b – Tehachapi Railroad Museum - <https://www.tehachapidepot.com/>, Kern County Museum (static train displays) <https://kerncountymuseum.org/>. Amtrak San Joaquin is a good option for taking a local trip via train.

American Cultures Merit Badge PM – Afternoon ONLY

Dawn Goodman - Counselor



Class size 12 per session

American Cultures prerequisites

- Mrs. Simrin Randhawa will be a guest in our merit badge session. She will discuss Indian culture/Sikh religion.
- I will discuss Pittsburgh/German culture.
- You will need to choose a third racial, cultural, national, or ethnic background.

One of the three must be your own background so if you are not Indian/Sikh or from Pittsburgh or western Pennsylvania, please choose your own background.

Use these groups to meet requirements 1, 2, and 3.

Requirement 1 - Do two of the following:

1. (a) Go to a festival, celebration, or other event identified with one of the groups. Report on what you see and learn.
2. (b) Go to a place of worship, school, or other institution identified with one of the groups. Report on what you see and learn.
3. (c) Talk with a person from one of the groups about the heritage and traditions of the group. Report on what you learn. You will do this in the merit badge session so please choose a different option for your second choice for this requirement.

4. (d) Learn a song, dance, poem, or story that is traditional to one group, and teach it to a group of your friends.

5. (e) Go to a library or museum to see a program or exhibit featuring one group's traditions. Report on what you see and learn.

Resource: Find a museum

Requirement 3

● Research the religious and social customs of your third group so you can talk about some ideas or ways of doing things that are similar in the three groups.

● Resources: Cultural Diversity in Communication (video)

● What Is Cross-Cultural Communication? (video)

● How To Master Cross-Cultural Communication? (video)

Competitive Gaming AM and PM sessions

(Sign up for either morning OR afternoon)

Michael Goodman - Counselor



Limit Class Size to 8 in each session.

There are **Prerequisites** and a **note to parents** on the games we are playing.

Competitive Gaming MB Pre-Req's

2. Living the Scout Oath and Law Online.

(c) Research the Entertainment Software Rating Board (ESRB) rating system. Record the ratings of the video games you own and compare them to your age group. Explain to your counselor whether you agree with the ESRB descriptions.

(d) List five ways to create a positive online gaming environment for yourself and others. Demonstrate one of these methods with your troop, patrol, or family.

3. Gamer Health and Balance. Do the following:

(a) Read two credible articles describing positive aspects of video gaming and two describing negative aspects. Create a chart showing where the articles agree or disagree.

Resources: [The Surprising Benefits of Video Games \(website\)](#)

[Are Video Games Good for You? \(website\)](#)

[How Video Games Can Level Up the Way You Learn \(video\)](#)

[How Video Games Affect Kids' Behavioral Health: The Hidden Risks \(website\)](#)

[Effects of Video Games on Teen Mental Health \(website\)](#)

[What Is the Link Between Screen Time and ADHD? \(PDF\)](#)

(b) Track the amount of gaming you do each day for two weeks. Record and summarize your results.

Resource: [ActivityWatch \(website\)](#)

(c) Track your daily physical activity for the same two weeks. Compare your results to the CDC recommendation of one hour of moderate-to-vigorous activity per day for youth ages 6-17.

Resource: [My Physical Activity Diary \(website\)](#)

(d) Track your daily sleep for the same two weeks. Compare your results to the CDC recommendation of 9-12 hours for ages 6-12 and 8-10 hours for ages 13-18.

Resource: [Teen Sleep Diary \(PDF\)](#)

(e) After completing 3(b), 3(c), and 3(d), create a one-week balanced schedule that includes healthy sleep, physical activity, and agreed-upon gaming time. Follow this schedule and summarize your results.

Resource: [Weekly Activity Schedule \(website\)](#)

4. Gamer Safety and Community Connection.

(c) Play one of your favorite games with your parent or guardian for at least 30 minutes. Demonstrate how to use privacy and safety settings, explain what you enjoy about the game, and let them play for part of the session.

Resource: [Online Gaming Safety Settings \(PDF\)](#)

Note to Parents: We will be playing the following games during this merit badge:

1. Nintendo's Overcooked! 2 – ESRB rating – E for Everyone
2. Hogwarts Legacy – ESRB rating - T for Teen (13+)

We will also be watching one of the League of Legends e-sports world finales competitions that was broadcast last year. You can preview it here: [Bing Videos](#)

In signing your scout up for this merit badge, you are giving your consent, that as a parent/guardian you are okay with your scout playing these 2 video games and watching the esports video during the merit badge session.

Full Day

Citizenship in the Nation

Sheri Stringer, Gayle Achuff, Stevie McDonald, Eric Bruen - Counselors



Class size 12-15 TV / computer and screen

Prerequisites # 5, 6, 7, 8

Requirement 5

Discuss National Issues

Watch the national evening news for five days in a row or read the main stories in a national media organization (e.g., a newspaper or news website) for five days in a row. Discuss the national issues that you learned about with your counselor. Choose one issue and explain how it affects you, your family, and your

Requirement 6

Citizenship in the Nation

National Historic Speech

With your counselor's approval, choose a speech of national historical importance.

Explain:

- (a) Who the author was
- (b) What the historical context was
- (c) What difficulties the nation faced that the author wished to discuss
- (d) What the author said
- (e) Why the speech is important to the nation's history

(f) Choose a sentence or two from the speech that has significant meaning to you and tell your counselor why.

Requirement 7 DO two of the following:

(a) Visit a place that is listed as a National Historic Landmark or that is on the National Register of Historic Places. Tell your counselor what you learned about the landmark or site and what you found interesting about it.

(b) Tour your state capitol building or the U.S. Capitol. Tell your counselor what you learned about the capitol, its function, and the history.

(c) Tour a federal facility. Explain to your counselor what you saw and what you learned about its function in the local community and how it serves this nation.

Federal Facility near”

Post office, Internal Revenue Services(IRS), Social Security Office, Military Base, Federal Court, Federal Reserve Bank, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Bakersfield Field Office

(d) Choose a United States national monument that interests you. Using books, brochures, the internet (with your parent or guardian's permission), and other resources, find out more about the monument. Tell your counselor what you learned, and explain why the monument is important to this country's citizens.

Monuments close to Bakersfield

Cesar Chavez 29700 Woodford-Tehachapi Rd, Keene, CA 93531

Carrizo Plains 17495 Soda Lake Rd, Santa Margarita, CA 93453

Requirement 8

8. Name your representatives in the United States Congress. Write to your representative in Congress explaining your views on a national issue. Show your correspondence, along with any response you receive, to your counselor.