

CT RIVERS COUNCIL

2026 MERIT BADGE MADNESS

April 11, 2026 – Xavier High School

Course Prerequisites & Information

Important information for the April 11, 2026 Merit Badge Madness:

- **Location for all Merit Badges:** Xavier High School, 181 Randolph Road; Middletown, CT
- All Day Classes: 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM ** AM Classes: 8:00-11:30 AM ** PM Classes: 12:30-4:00 PM
- Scouts should arrive by 7:30 AM to register and be at your class on time. If only attending a PM class please arrive by 12:15 PM
- **All Scouts must wear Class A Uniform to event**
- Lunch will be from 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM in the Café. All Scouts need to bring their own lunch, no food service will be available.
- Bring a notebook and pen/pencil. Bring a backpack to carry everything in. Scouts will receive information, etc. at the end of class. The backpack helps to prevent things from getting lost.
- Complete required prerequisites, bring supporting documentation such as pictures, signed notes, documents, etc. Scouts will receive partials if prerequisites are not completed.
- BEHAVIOR: Any Scout not following instructions or behaving inappropriately will be asked to leave and no refund will be offered.
- Any questions prior to or the day of event please contact Mike Ruty @ Cell: 860-558-8888 or mwr90@aol.com

PREREQUISITES

AMERICAN INDIAN CULTURE - <https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/american-indian-culture/>

Requirement # 5 Do ONE of the following:

- (a) Visit a museum either in-person or virtually to see American Indian exhibitions and collections. Discuss with your counselor what you observed or learned from two exhibitions and identify 10 artifacts by tribe or nation, their shape, size, and use.
- (b) Attend a contemporary American Indian gathering. Discuss with your counselor proper etiquette for attending as well as what you learned and observed during your visit.

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

None

CITIZENSHIP IN THE COMMUNITY - <https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/citizenship-in-the-community/>

Requirement #3 – Attend a town/city meeting, be ready to discuss in class.

Requirement #7 – Complete eight hours of community service, bring documentation.

Requirement #8 - Presentation about your community – Complete and be ready to present in class.

These requirements can be completed before or after class, bring documentation if completed.

CITIZENSHIP IN THE NATION - <https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/citizenship-in-the-nation/>

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 its history.
- c. Tour a federal facility. Explain to your counselor what you saw there and what you learned about its function in the local community and how it serves this nation.
- d. Choose a national monument that interests you. Using books, brochures, the Internet (with your parent'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.

Requirement #5 - Watch the national evening news five days in a row OR read the front page of a major daily newspaper five days in a row. Discuss the national issues with counselor. Choose one of the issues and explain how it affects you and your family.

Requirement #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.

CITIZENSHIP IN THE WORLD - <https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/citizenship-in-the-world/>

Requirement #7 - Do TWO of the following (with your parent's permission) and share with your counselor what you have learned:

- a. Visit the website of the U.S. State Department. Learn more about an issue you find interesting that is discussed on this website.
- b. Visit the website of an international news organization or foreign government, OR examine a foreign newspaper available at your local library, bookstore, or newsstand. Find a news story about a human right realized in the United States that is not recognized in another country.
- c. Visit with a student or Scout from another country and discuss the typical values, holidays, ethnic foods, and traditions practiced or enjoyed there.
- d. Attend a world Scout jamboree.
- e. Participate in or attend an international event in your area, such as an ethnic festival, concert, or play.

COIN COLLECTING - <https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/coin-collecting/>

Bring a bag of coins

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

Requirement #3 - Write a 5 minute speech and be prepared to give speech to class

Requirement #4 - Interview someone that you know well. Be prepared to give an introduction of this person to the class.

Requirement #5 - Attend a public meeting. (Town, city council, school board, etc.) Be prepared to share your findings in class.

Requirement #7 - Do ONE of the following:

- a. Write to the editor of a magazine or your local newspaper
- b. Create a Web page for your scout troop, school, or other organization.
- c. Use desktop publishing to produce a newsletter, brochure, or flyer

Requirement #8 - Plan a troop court of honor or campfire program and serve as master of ceremonies. Bring note from Scoutmaster.

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

Bring your collection to class if possible or pictures

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

None

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

Requirement #2 – Complete a home electrical safety inspection using form on registration website.

Requirement #7 – Make a floor plan wiring diagram of the lights, switches, and outlets for a room in your home. Show which fuse or circuit breaker protects each one.

Requirement #8 - Do the following:

- a. Read an electric meter and, using your family's electric bill, determine the energy cost from the meter readings.
- b. Be prepared to discuss with your counselor five ways in which your family can conserve energy.

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

None

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS - <https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/emergency-preparedness/>

Requirement #9: Earn First Aid Merit Badge (proof of completion is required-bring completed blue card, a photo of completed blue card, a signed note from the Scoutmaster, or the printed report generated from Internet Advancement/Scoutbook that shows the merit badge and scout's name) If First Aid Merit Badge has not been completed, the Scout will receive a partial until First Aid MB is completed.

Requirement #2 a,b,c: Planning for Family Emergencies (It is not necessary to bring this kit with you as long as you bring a photo of the kit and the contents, and can explain the needs and uses of the contents)

Requirement #3a: Home Inspection, be prepared to discuss in class.

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

Requirements #1, 2, and 9: Scouts need to be prepared with some research completed to support completion of these requirements.

FIRE SAFETY - <https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/fire-safety/>

Bring completed and signed permission slip for offsite field trip

Requirement #6 - Conduct a home safety survey with the help of an adult. Then do the following:

- a. Draw a home fire-escape plan, create a home fire-drill schedule, and conduct a home fire drill.
- b. Test a smoke alarm and demonstrate regular maintenance of a smoke alarm.
- c. Explain what to do when you smell gas and when you smell smoke.
- d. Explain how you would report a fire alarm.
- e. Explain what fire safety equipment can be found in public buildings.
- f. Explain who should use fire extinguishers and when these devices can be used.
- g. Explain how to extinguish a grease pan fire.
- h. Explain what fire safety precautions you should take when you are in a public building.

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

Requirement # 4 - Ask five people (not more than one from your immediate family) about the role of law enforcement officers in our society. Discuss their answers with them. Go to a law enforcement officer in your neighborhood and ask about his or her responsibilities and duties. Report your findings to the class.

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

Requirement #3 – Complete two

Bring instrument and music

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

Requirements #4 and #6 before. Bring a log or photos of the requirements to discuss. Please read requirements ahead of time for discussion.

PERSONAL MANAGEMENT - <https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/personal-management/>

Requirement #2 a, b, c, & d - Budget and Expense Logs - 13 weeks

Requirement #8 – Time Management

This can be completed before or after class. If this has been completed please bring documentation to class.

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

Bring Camera or Smart Phone

Requirement # 8 – Careers – Research and be ready to discuss

PUBLIC SPEAKING - <https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/public-speaking/>

None

STAMP COLLECTING - <https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/stamp-collecting/>

All stamps, supplies, and support items for the Merit Badge will be provided.

Requirement # 7a - Design a Stamp. Scouts design a stamp for a country (U.S. or other country).

The correct currency must be shown and the design must highlight some aspect of the history, culture, or geography of that country. This should also be brought to the program, where the Scout will be asked to explain the design and share some information about the country.

For a U.S. Stamp, the design should include: USA or United States; a denomination of .58 cents or the word "Forever" which is predominantly used for U.S. Stamps covering the first-class rate; and the year (2024). Highly recommend that the Scout design a U.S. Stamp.

Here is the link to a form to use for documenting their Stamp Design:

https://sossi.org/badges/7a_Preview_Design_Stamp.pdf

Scouts need to bring this with them to the Merit Badge session. Forms will also be available at the merit badge session.

Requirement # 4a. Demonstrate the use of one standard catalog for several different stamp issues. During our in-person session, we will use catalogs to determine the value of some stamps. In preparation for this, request that the Scouts watch this YouTube video on Stamp Catalog: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UBpdVtL6tQU> It will make our conversation a little easier.

Additionally, here is a website that has additional information about some of the use of the stamp catalogs. <https://www.amosadvantage.com/stamp-guides/understanding-the-scott-catalogue-listings>