

**Piedmont District  
Merit Badge Midway 2017  
(18 March 2017)**

**Saturday, March 18th, 2017  
Time: 7:30 AM to 4:30 PM  
Opening Ceremony at 8:30 AM  
Taylor Middle School**

**Program Summary:**

- Over 17 merit badges will be offered.
- \$8.00 On-Line Registration fee per Scout
- \$12.00 Late Registration after March 15, 2016
- \$12.00 Walk-In Registration
- Check the district website for changes and updates!
- Scouts wear their Field Uniform
- Bring a Bag Lunch.

**Location**

The 2017 Merit Badge Midway is located at Taylor Middle School (350 E. Shirley Ave) in Warrenton VA. Parking may be limited so please try to share rides to the event if possible. For Parking, there is a lot in front of the school, limited spaces behind the school and shared parking with Warrenton Community Center. The event entrance is located at the rear entrance of the school. There will be appropriate signage to guide people to that entrance.

## **Key Dates and Times**

- Registration Kick-off is January 7, 2017
- Registration Cut-off is March 10, 2017
- Check-in starts at 7:30 AM

Piedmont District, National Capital Area Council, is pleased to announce the Piedmont Merit Badge Midway!! There are a great number of merit badges available, and several are taught by local professionals.

This document is directed towards unit leadership and the registration process. Do not forget to download the Merit Badge Class document. It has information scouts need to complete in order to earn that merit badge. Please be sure to distribute the Merit Badge Class document to your scouts so they may begin working on prerequisites.

The program and registration form are on the NCAC-Piedmont calendar.

<http://www.ncacbsa.org/calendar/> , Please check back as there will be classes added throughout the next month.

## **Registration & Program Information**

Many of our merit badge counselors (MBCs) are professionals from outside of scouting so be sure your scouts are prepared and capable of doing the class work. The earlier your scouts decide on a merit badge the more time they have to prepare. Please encourage your scouts to start working on those prerequisites that are listed in the Merit Badge Class document so they are prepared to complete the merit badge. Classes fill quickly so get your scouts registered and started on the preparation work. The sooner we know how quickly a class is filling we can add Merit Badge Counselors and class space.

Unit Leaders and Unit Merit Badge Coordinators: Please read the program and review the list of merit badges and preparation requirements (prerequisites) with your scouts. Please take note that a variety of merit badges are available for all age groups but scouts should be registered on an age appropriate basis; this can only be done at the unit level. Unprepared or immature scouts will impact the quality of a class and will not be able to complete the merit badge.

Recommended Minimum Ages have been invoked by the Merit Badge Counselors (MBCs) because of unqualified or unprepared scouts have caused problems in past classes or do not participate in class. This is unfair as this takes a seat away from a qualified scout that would otherwise earn the merit badge. Please screen your scouts for the class and make sure they are qualified and prepared. This is a very demanding program and scouts will not get a merit badge for just occupying a chair; they need to do the work required of the merit badge.

Blue Cards: The Blue Card [34124], (No Xerox copies will be accepted), is the scout's ticket to

his class and is required to be signed by his unit leader. Note that the unit leader signature affirms that the scout is qualified for the merit badge and confirms to the MBC that he is capable of doing the class work (please read what is on the Blue Card). Blue cards will be collected in class and returned to Piedmont units at the May Round Table. Out of district scouts will have their cards mailed to their unit's contact person listed on the registration form. Blue Cards should be received by the first or second week in May.

Merit Badge Classes: We wish the scouts to accept the responsibility of preparing for and attending the classes they sign up for because the MBCs prepare class materials at their expense. Please make sure your scouts understand that they are expected to attend the classes they sign up for and will not be able to make class changes at the midway without a very good reason. Some classes have a fee for materials and those fees are paid directly to the MBC. Scouts are obligated to pay the fee even if they drop the class.

Merit Badge Counselor training is being offered to adults as well, parents and leaders are encouraged to take this.

Payment: The fee is \$8 per scout. in. Late registrants and Walk-In registrants will pay \$12. The payments are non-refundable since the amounts are less than \$25 per person. With the exception of Walk-ins on the day of the event which will require cash or check, all payments will be made on-line via a credit card or electronic check.

Scouts Register with their Unit, All scouts must register with their unit and a unit coordinator (single point of contact for all registrations). Registration is submitted On-line and must be made at the time of the registration. No registrations will be accepted after the cut-off date as we must prepare for the event. After the cut-off date scouts may show up as "walk-ins" but may not find space available in the classes of their choice but we will do our best. Please don't let us disappoint your boys, register early so we can allocate the needed number of MBCs and class space! Waiting for the last week is very risky as many classes will be full and we will not have time to open another class without additional MBCs.

Those classes that require a fee for materials (see MB listing) will only be available to those scouts that register on time as materials must be purchased and prepared in advance; typically, within two weeks of the event date. Scouts are responsible for paying the material fee once they are registered for the class even if the Scout is a no show on the day of the event. Class (materials) fees will be paid directly to the counselor.

Some classes may involve local travel and it is the unit's responsibility to provide the transportation and extra adult coverage. Be sure your scouts do not get Genealogy and Geology mixed up, both classes involve digging into the past so double check when they sign up. Some merit badge classes require the scouts to handle tools. Be sure those scouts bring a note acknowledging this activity to complete the merit badge. Details of specific merit badge

activities are in Section II.

Internet and E-mail access: most merit badge counselors use e-mail and the Internet to provide information and resources for the scouts. Scout leaders need to advise their youth about Internet use and safety. If a scout does not have access Internet or e-mail access, let the MBC know so other arrangements can be made. All MBCs are listed in Section II but be sure to check the MBM Program on the Piedmont District webpage to obtain the latest information. Go to:

**Lone Scout:** A Lone Scout, or any scouts whose unit is not participating, may sign up but must bring their Blue Cards signed by his unit leader (No Xerox copies will be accepted). Just complete the registration process on- line.. The Registration process is self-explanatory – just follow the prompts. Payment must be made at the time the Registration has been completed.

## **Registration Procedure:**

The registration this year will occur on-line and the link is posted on the Piedmont District website. A representative from each Troop will be able to register Scouts with multiple entries or as a single scout. Payment must be made at the time the Registration is completed. The key will be to know the specific Merit Badges that each Scout would like to take. Once the Registration has been completed for a Single Scout, another Scout can be added and the same process is followed until all Scouts that you want to include on the initial Registration has been completed. List each scout's name (no nick names) and his choices. The system will automatically keep track of slots available and will automatically indicate when a class is full. Scouts will not be allowed to make any changes to their schedules once the registration has been completed. Once the registration ends on 25 March 2016, individual schedules will be generated and each instructor will be provided with a class roster. Scouts MUST attend the courses in which they have registered for on the day of the event.

## **Unit Representative**

Each unit is required to have at least one registered scouter present during the Midway at all times. At the check-in station there is a roster for your unit representative to sign-in; if your representative leaves during the event, another must sign-in. Your unit rep will be the last to leave; no scouts are to be left unattended. Scouts that are disruptive will be asked to leave the class and find their unit's representative.

Please advise us of any special needs scouts or scouts with any disabilities so we may be sensitive to their needs. You are obligated to inform us so our MBCs may work more closely with those scouts.

## **Be Sure Your Scouts are Working to the Latest Requirements**

Units, be sure your scouts are working to the latest merit badge requirements in effect January 1st; see Boy Scout REQUIREMENTS [This Year], (#34765).

Please be sure to check the MBM Program on the Piedmont District website weekly for the most current class status (date at top).

Please note that the program is not set up for scouts to complete partial MBs at the MBM since specific MB requirements are pre-determined (see Section II). If a scout wishes to complete a partial MB, he must then contact the MBC in advance to verify that this is acceptable.

**NAMES! – NAMES! – NAMES!** Please tell your scouts to have their name and unit number on all the stuff they are bringing and include their name on hats, jackets and anything else they could leave behind. Every year we end up materials with no identification, which makes it an extra burden in trying to return lost or forgotten items. Unclaimed clothing in good condition is given to local charities.