



2026 Spring Merit Badge Academy Attendees:

We are looking forward to seeing you at the GTBAC Spring Merit Badge Academy at Saint Leo University on Saturday, May 2, 2026. Please review the important information in this document prior to the event.

Location:

Saint Leo University is located at 33701 County Road 52, Saint Leo, FL 33574.

From I-75, take Exit 285, then east on State Road 52 towards Dade City/San Antonio. After 1.2 miles, take a slight left to CR 52. On CR-52, go 2.4 miles, turn right, then turn left at the traffic light (Palm Blvd) into the main entrance of Saint Leo University. If you miss the first turn onto CR 52, take a left at the next traffic light (Mirada) which will bring you north to CR 52. Turn right there and follow the directions above to get to Saint Leo University campus.

Once you have turned into Saint Leo, follow the drive north towards the roundabout. If you are parking, turn at the first right at the roundabout and follow the road east to the parking areas. If you are *quickly* dropping off, pull around the roundabout to the north end and drop off passengers for Kirk Hall (the building just northeast of the roundabout). To avoid congestion, please make this drop-off quick. If you need additional time, please park and then unload in the parking lot. Vans or other large passenger vehicles should park to unload. There is plenty of parking available. If the first lots are full, continue down Campus Drive for additional parking. Please follow traffic flow directions in the parking lots.

For afternoon pickup, all drivers must park and meet their passengers by the registration check-in area in front of Kirk Hall.

Arrival, Check-in and Class Procedures:

Upon arrival, participants should check in at the tables in the breezeway outside Kirk Hall. Check-in will open at 8:00 a.m. Participants should arrive before 8:30 a.m. to check in.

To expedite check-in, please follow the following directions:

1. Units arriving together should check in together with 1-2 adults handling check-in with everyone else waiting. Please limit the number of people in line to those necessary. Please have a roster ready.
2. Individuals checking in should be ready to provide their name and unit.
3. All participants need to know their class schedules prior to arrival. We will not have time to look it up for you. Unit leaders, please make sure scouts are prepared.
4. At check-in you will receive one meal ticket per registrant. You will need this meal ticket for lunch.

After check-in, participants will remain in the area around Kirk Hall until released to their classes. There will be signs identifying assigned classrooms.

After the morning session ends, everyone will head to the dining hall for lunch, bringing their personal items if they are taking a different class in the afternoon. At the end of the day, Scouts will leave their classes and return to the registration area for pickup.

Medical Information:

As always, individuals with any actively contagious illness should not attend the event. *All attendees must bring their completed medical forms part A & B. Attendees will retain their forms unless needed for medical care.*

Required Items for All Participants:

- A/B Medical form (Scouts keep this with them). This can be downloaded at: https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/HealthSafety/pdf/680-001_AB.pdf
- Backpack to hold your supplies and gear
- Rain Gear if needed – check weather forecast for Saturday morning
- Refillable water bottle & Sunscreen for partially outside classes – Personal Fitness, Radio, Truck Transportation, Crime Prevention, LNT Basics, and possibly others
- Class registration info (know which class(es) you are taking)
- Blue cards signed by your Scoutmaster/ASM
- See Class Prerequisites for additional class materials and supplies to bring

Dress for Scouts:

- Scouts and Scouters are to wear field uniforms (Class A). We recommend wearing a scouting T-shirt (Class B) underneath the uniform shirt. Some classes will spend some time outdoors and scouts may be able to leave their class A inside.

Your schedule will be:

8 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. – Arrive at Saint Leo and check-in
8:45 a.m. – Release to class locations – be in class promptly by 9 a.m.
9 a.m. – noon – Morning session
Noon to 12:45 p.m. – Hot lunch in Dining Hall (included in registration)
1:00 p.m. – Afternoon session begins
4:00 p.m. – Class instruction ends
4:00 – 4:15 p.m. – Complete paperwork, scouts pack up and clean class area. LEAVE NO TRACE!
4:30 p.m. – All scouts should be picked up for departure

Have fun and make the best of this opportunity to earn Merit Badges.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Frank Brown at feb.scouting@gmail.com or call/text 813-695-7291.

Yours in Scouting,

Catherine Eisenhart-Mora, District Executive
Frank Brown | Merit Badge Event Volunteer Lead

Join our Facebook page for the most recent updates!

[Spring 2026 Merit Badge Academy | Facebook](#)

Scout/Scouter Code of Conduct

Saint Leo University has a beautiful campus that we are fortunate to be able to use. To ensure our safety and for the protection of all in attendance, as well as the facilities and grounds, all Scouts and Scouters must comply with the following code of conduct:

1. Youth Protection Rules and the Buddy System are to be followed at all times.
2. Scouts are not to be in any classroom on campus unless adults are present.
3. Scouts will not touch any electronic equipment, chalkboard, whiteboard or any other items in classrooms without adult permission or direction.
4. Scouts should not be outside on campus during class time except for classes that will be going outside, unless returning to the check-in area.
5. Scouts will not engage in horseplay or other activities that could result in injury to persons or damage to property.
6. After afternoon classes end, Scouts should return to the registration area and wait for rides. We will have an indoor location for you to wait.



Prerequisites, Post-Requisites, And Other Class Instructions

(Final version)

Scouts attending the Merit Badge Academy should **all** bring:

- (1) The merit badge worksheet for the badges taken available at <http://usscouts.org/usscouts/mb/worksheets/list.asp>. Many instructors will use this worksheet in the class. Please note unfortunately that several worksheets have not been updated to 2026 requirements, and newer badges such as Artificial Intelligence and Cybersecurity may not have worksheets. Please bring the most recent versions available.
- (2) Extra paper or notebook and pens/pencil
- (3) Proof of completion of any prerequisites. Many classes have requirements that must be completed after the class. Instructors will provide a path toward completion of these.

Scouts should also review the free, downloadable merit badge pamphlet for their class to be prepared for class discussions. Participation in class discussions is a requirement of many badges. All merit badge pamphlets may be downloaded from the Scouting America website ([All Merit Badges A-Z | Scouting America](#)) under the specific badge. If Scouts are bringing an electronic device, they should have the pamphlet available for review. Some instructors may refer to the pamphlet during class.

Class-specific prerequisites/post-requisites and other instructions are listed below.

All prerequisites are subject to change as necessary. Prerequisites not completed before class may be assigned as post-requisites.

MERIT BADGE CLASSES

CARDS TECHNOLOGY TRACK –

Merit badges in this track are offered in conjunction with the Saint Leo University College of Computing, Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, and Data Science (CARDS). All classes will be taught by faculty or advanced students of the College. All badges *except* **Robotics** have the following qualification requirements due to the nature and difficulty of the requirements.

- Scouts must be 13 years old or older and be in 8th grade or higher. Scouts must have completed the Scout Rank requirement 6b and Star Rank requirement 6b relating to Digital Safety.
- Scouts must bring a personal laptop computer *and* a personal smartphone. Scouts will be actively using their laptops in these classes.
- Scouts must be highly computer literate and be familiar with operation of their

devices and various types of applications, including web browsers, productivity applications, and operating systems, and be capable of simple coding under direction as well as preparation of basic AI queries.

Artificial Intelligence and Programming (9 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

This challenging class will cover both of these merit badges in a single session. Please see qualifications required above. Additional prerequisites and post requisites may be required. To succeed in this class, scouts should have an understanding of coding before class and be capable of drafting effective AI queries.

Cybersecurity (9 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

Please see qualifications required above. Scouts will need antivirus software (which they know how to use) installed on their laptops. Additional prerequisites and post requisites may be required.

Digital Technology (1 p.m. – 4 p.m.)

See above. Scouts will use both a laptop and smartphone in class.

Robotics (9 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

None

GENERAL MERIT BADGE TRACK –

American Business (9 a.m. – noon)

None

American Heritage (1 p.m. – 4 p.m.)

Scouts will need to research these in advance and be prepared to discuss:

(a) Select a topic related to the United States that is currently in the news.

(c) Research your family's history. Find out how various events and situations in American history affected your family. If your family immigrated to America, tell the reasons why.

Bugling (1 p.m. – 4 p.m.)

This is a performance class, rather than a teaching class. To complete Req. #4 at the class, scouts will need to have prior experience playing trumpet, cornet, or bugle. Scouts should bring their own instrument. Scouts will need to practice 10 of the listed bugle calls and be prepared to perform these. Scouts using trumpet or cornet may use any set fingering preferred but may not change fingering as the calls must be played solely using

harmonics. These calls can be found on YouTube and other locations on the internet. Scout either brings proof of completion of Req. #6 or will complete this service after the class.

Citizenship in the Nation (1 p.m. – 4 p.m.)

Scouts should be in 7th grade or higher. Prerequisites are #5 and #7.

Citizenship in the World (9 a.m. – noon) and (1 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

Scouts should be in 7th grade or higher. Scouts should review and prepare requirements ##3-7 in advance and prepare for class discussion.

Coin Collecting (9 a.m. – noon)

Prerequisites: 4a, b, c, d, e, f. Scouts should bring these to class and be prepared to discuss differences.

Communication (9 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

Communication Merit Badge requires considerable pre-event preparation. Requirements not completed at the event will be completed as post-requisites.

Prepare an option from Reqs #1 and #2 and come prepared to present at the academy.

Prepare Reqs #3 and #4 and be prepared to present at the academy.

Req #5 – attend public meeting and prepare report in the worksheet

Req. #6 – develop a plan to teach a skill, using teaching aids, and come prepared to teach it at the academy.

Req. #7 – Select an option from the choices, prepare it, and bring a copy to the academy.

Req. #8 – this is usually completed after the class. If previously completed, bring a copy of the script and proof that it was conducted.

Req. #9 – perform research on three professions and write up your findings in the worksheet.

Cooking (9 a.m. – noon)

Prereq - #7. Research and prepare to discuss requirement 7.a or 7.b

PostReqs. - ##4-6. Scouts will prepare sample menus in class for these requirements that will be completed at the unit level.

Crime Prevention (9 a.m. – noon) and (1 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

Req. #4b. Complete checklist from merit badge worksheet for Crime Prevention for home or other location. Needs to be signed by parent or guardian.

Req. #4c. Prepare a short lesson in writing and be prepared to present.

Other prerequisites may be added.

Dog Care (1 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

Prerequisites/post requirements are #4, #8 and #10. To complete this badge scouts must have a pet dog they care for.

Environmental Science (9 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

Using the Scouting America Resources page [here](#), scouts will research and be prepared to discuss in class by viewing short videos on YouTube. Scouts should take notes of their research to facilitate discussion. Any items not completed in class will be post-requisites.

1. Research, answer, and be prepared to share with class.
2. a. Choose area approved by your Scoutmaster and parents and complete. Be prepared to share your findings.
3. b. Research and be prepared to share with class.
4. c. Research and be prepared to share with class.
5. c. Research and be prepared to share with class.
6. b. Research and be prepared to share with class.
7. c. Research and be prepared to share with class.
8. c. Research and be prepared to share with class.
9. Research and be prepared to share with class.
10. Research and be prepared to share with class.
11. Research and be prepared to share with class.

First Aid (9 a.m. – noon)

Req. #2.a. - Bring a copy of your health form (A/B) and review thoroughly prior to class.

Req. #2.b.(1) – Bring the personal first aid kit you assembled.

Req. #2.b.(2) – Bring note from unit leader confirming inspection of unit first aid kit, or note from another adult if inspecting non-unit first aid kit.

Journalism (9 a.m. – noon) and (1 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

Print and bring a hard copy of the Journalism MB worksheet
Requirements 2 and 4 - Bring the required documentation to present to the class for review and discussion

Leatherwork (9 a.m. – noon) and (1 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

None

Personal Fitness (9 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

Requirements #1, 2, 3, 8. Please review the study resources available [here](#) on the Scouting America website and be prepared to discuss in class. Scouts should be prepared to discuss their last physical and dental visit as discussed in Req. 2 and may, but are not required to, bring copies/verification of these visits so long as they can discuss the information required.

Requirement #7 will be completed after class. Scouts will perform their baseline testing and fitness plan (Requirements 4-6) at the academy and then complete their 12-week program afterwards. Scouts should be prepared to discuss their last physical and dental visit as discussed in Req. 2 and may, but are not required to, bring copies/verification of these visits so long as they can discuss the information required.

Scouts should wear or bring appropriate clothing and footwear for outdoor activities.

Photography (9 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

Bring a digital camera you know how to use or smartphone with built-in camera. Have previously earned your Cyber Chip or viewed the Personal Safety Awareness "Digital Safety" and "Persistence for Pictures" videos (with your parent or guardian's permission). If possible, bring photos for Requirement #7. #7 may be post-requisite.

Radio (9 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

This badge had major changes for 2026. New prerequisites and post-requisites are being prepared.

Railroading (9 a.m. – noon) and (1 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

None other than to review Merit Badge Pamphlet

Safety (1 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

See attached worksheet.

Scouting Heritage (9 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

Requirements #5, #6, #7, #8 - #7 should be prepared for completion in class; #8 may be completed in class

Stamp Collecting (9 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

None

Truck Transportation (9 a.m. – noon) and (1 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

None

TRAINING CLASSES

All adults taking classes must be registered Scouters and have current YPT. Bring pen and paper for note-taking. Scouts may also register for Leave No Trace.

Board of Review Training (1 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

No prerequisites.

Leave No Trace Basics (1 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

This class serves as a 3-hour detailed introduction to Leave No Trace principles. It can be taken by both youth and adults. The class provides a better understanding of LNT principles as applied to Scouting and gives a background for completion or supervision of rank-related LNT requirements. It provides the basic training needed to serve as the unit Outdoor Ethics Guide. Additionally, both youth and adults can use this class to earn the Outdoor Ethics Awareness Award.

For participants desiring to earn the Outdoor Ethics Awareness Award, prerequisites include watching these three videos and providing certificates demonstrating completion of the last two (the certificates will be provided upon enrollment in and completion of courses).

nps.gov/features/wilderness/leavenotrace/popup.html

[Leave No Trace 101 Course](#)

tread-lightly.teachable.com/p/online-awareness-course

Merit Badge Counselor Training (D76) (9 a.m. – noon)

No prerequisites. Attendees will be asked to observe and assist in other classes in the afternoon session as possible. No prior experience or preparation will be necessary.

Troop Committee Challenge (W10) (1 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

No prerequisites

Safety

Scouts must bring the completed Safety MB worksheets to the class!

1. **Safety and Hazards.** Do the following and **must be prepared to discuss this during the class:**

- (a) Explain what safety is and what it means to be safe.
- (b) Explain what hazards are and how people manage hazards to reduce risks of harm and to improve safety.

2. **Family and Home Safety.** Do the following **must be prepared to discuss this during the class:**

- (a) Explain common causes of and prevention of home injuries.
- (b) Discuss the dangers involved with the use of fireworks.
- (c) Explain common causes of and prevention of home fires.
- (d) Using the Home Safety Checklist in the *Safety* merit badge pamphlet, or one approved by your counselor, inspect your home or a similar building for hazards with an adult. Review your checklist and findings with your counselor.
Scouts must bring their completed safety checklist to the class.
- (e) Develop a fire-escape plan for your home or for a similar building. Include in your drawings exit routes from each room and a meeting place outside. Conduct a fire-escape drill. Review your plan and your drill with your counselor.
Scouts must bring their home's floorplan and show their escape routes during the class.
- (f) Develop a family emergency action plan for evacuation because of weather or other natural disasters that occur in your area. Using a checklist in the *Safety* merit badge pamphlet or one approved by your counselor, assemble or inspect an emergency supplies kit. Explain to your counselor how a family would use the plan and the kit supplies in an emergency.

Scouts must bring their completed checklist and their emergency supply kit or photographs of the kit.

3. Safety from Crime. Do the following:

- (a) Explain common types of crimes that can affect teens.

Scouts must be prepared to discuss during the class.

- (b) Using a Home Security Checklist in the *Safety* merit badge pamphlet or one approved by your counselor, inspect your home or a similar building for crime security measures with an adult. Review your checklist and findings with your counselor.

Scouts must bring their completed checklist and be prepared to discuss their checklist.

4. Safety in Public Places. Explain each of the following to your counselor:

- (a) How a person would safely exit from public buildings, a hotel, and a stadium in an emergency

Scouts must be prepared to discuss during the class.

- (b) How and why Scouts would take shelter at camp

Scouts must be prepared to discuss during the class.

- (c) How should Scouts respond to an active shooter

Scouts must be prepared to discuss during the class.

- (d) The meaning of this saying: "If You See Something, Say Something®"

Scouts must be prepared to discuss during the class.

5. Safeguarding Youth. Do the following:

- (a) Discuss Scouting America's Safeguarding Youth guidelines that adults and Scouts must follow so that everyone is safe at Scouting activities.

Scouts must be prepared to discuss during the class.

(b) Discuss with your counselor what situations and behaviors would prompt you to Recognize, Resist, and Report a possible abuse situation.

Scouts must be prepared to discuss during the class.

(c) Discuss how you, other Scouts, leaders, and anyone can report situations suspicious for abuse through the Scouts First Helpline and other means.

Scouts must be prepared to discuss during the class.

6. **Safety from Assault.** Explain how to avoid or prevent:

- (a) Assault on a street
Scouts must be prepared to discuss during the class.
- (b) Assault at a restaurant event

Scouts must be prepared to discuss during the class.

- (c) Sexual assault at a party or on a date

Scouts must be prepared to discuss during the class.

7. **Online Safety.** Discuss the following with your counselor:

- (a) How to avoid being the victim of online crimes
Scouts must be prepared to discuss during the class.
- (b) Common online financial scams
Scouts must be prepared to discuss during the class.
- (c) Effective online security
Scouts must be prepared to discuss during the class.
- (d) Identity theft and how to prevent it
Scouts must be prepared to discuss during the class.
- (e) How criminals use social media to target victims
Scouts must be prepared to discuss during the class.
- (f) How bullying, texting, and sharing photos can become crimes
Scouts must be prepared to discuss during the class.

8. **Travel Safety.** Explain guidelines for traveling safely:

- (a) As a pedestrian in a city
Scouts must be prepared to discuss during the class.
- (b) In a friend's car or truck
Scouts must be prepared to discuss during the class.
- (c) In a rideshare vehicle
Scouts must be prepared to discuss during the class.
- (d) On a bus
Scouts must be prepared to discuss during the class.
- (e) On a subway or train
Scouts must be prepared to discuss during the class.
- (f) On a commercial airplane
Scouts must be prepared to discuss during the class.

9. **Careers.** Do ONE of the following:

- (a) Explore careers related to Safety merit badge. Research one career to learn about the training and education needed, costs, job prospects, salary, job duties, and career advancement. With permission of your parent or guardian, your research methods may include an internet or library search, an interview with a professional in the field, or a visit to a location where people in this career work. Discuss with your counselor both your findings and what about this profession might make it an interesting career.
Scouts must bring their research and be prepared to discuss during the class.
- (b) Explore how you could use knowledge and skills related to safety to pursue a hobby, lifestyle, or service as a volunteer. Research any training needed, expenses, and organizations that promote or support it. Discuss with your counselor what short-term and long-term goals you might have if you pursue this.
Scouts must bring their research and be prepared to discuss during the class.