Prerequisites, Post-Requisites, And Other Class Instructions

11-3-2026 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. Prerequisites not completed before class may be assigned as post-requisites.

All prerequisites are subject to change as necessary.

MERIT BADGE CLASSES

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

Complete Requirement #5(a) or (c) and bring your work to class
Bring proof of completion of #6; possible class option also.

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

Bring write-up of #5 and #7. Prepare and bring your letter for #8.

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

Scouts should review requirements ##3-7 in advance and prepare for class discussion.
Bring proof of any part of #7 completed.

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. – noon)

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) and (1 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

Read Scout Handbook 81-87 and 288-325

#2c. Track your daily level of activity and your daily caloric need based on your activity for five days. Then, based on the MyPlate food guide, discuss with your counselor an appropriate meal plan for yourself for one day.

○ Use the merit badge worksheet to record answers.

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.

Dog Care (9 a.m. – noon)

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

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

Read / Review the Emergency Preparedness MB pamphlet and requirements available at: https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/emergency-preparedness/

Read Scout Handbook pages: 108-109, 148-155, 177-179, and 254-255.

Bring a printed copy of the updated merit badge worksheet; available at: www.shacbsa.org/Data/Sites/1/media/advancement/merit-badge-worksheets/emergency-preparedness-worksheet-2025.pdf

Requirement #2a-c: Planning for Family Emergencies.

- Use the merit badge worksheet to record answers; the worksheet lists these requirements as 3a-c.
- Scouts should bring with them a drawn floor plan of home showing escape routes.
- Scout should also bring a printed/completed Shelter-in-Place and Evacuation inspection checklists.
- Checklists can be found here: https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/Merit_Badge_ReqandRes/Requirement Resources/Emergency Preparedness/E Prep Checklist for Evacuation.pdf AND https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/Merit_Badge_ReqandRes/Requirement Resources/Emergency Preparedness/Family Emergency Sheltering in Place Checklist 01 2026.pdf

Requirement #3a: Home Safey and Hazards

- Use the merit badge worksheet to record answers; the worksheet lists the requirement as 4a.
- Scout should bring completed checklist from home inspection to class.
- Use inspection checklist located at the back of the merit badge worksheet; pages 13-15.

Req. #9: First Aid Merit Badge.

- Provide note from Scoutmaster or ASM of completion of this requirement.

Req. #10b: Identify three career opportunities that would use skills and knowledge in emergency services. Pick one and research the training, education, certification requirements, experience, and expenses associated with entering the field. Research the prospects for employment, starting salary, advancement opportunities, and career goals associated with this career.

- Use the MB worksheet to record answers to questions.

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.

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

Requirements 3, 4, 5 and 6 will be discussed in class and completed at home afterward.

First Aid (9 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

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 (1 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

All scouts will need to arrange to complete Requirement 2 outside of the MB Academy before or after the academy. Please note that BOTH options A & B have 2 parts - reading/viewing news from multiple sources AND touring a news office or station.

Note: Virtual visits ARE pre-approved for this event. An option for TV studio tour (a few years old, but a comprehensive tour) may be found by searching on YouTube for CBS Broadcast Center Philadelphia A Look and Behind the Scene Tour.

Option A—Newspaper, Magazine, and Online Journalism. (Ask your parent or guardian's permission for the online option.) Do ALL of the following:
(1) On the same day, read a local news source or newspaper, a national news source or newspaper, a news magazine (online or printed), and a social media news feed. From each source, clip, read, and compare a story about the same event. Tell your counselor how long each story is and how fair and accurate the stories are in presenting different points of view. Tell how each source handled the story.
(2) Visit the office of a newspaper, magazine, or internet news site. Ask for a tour of the various divisions (editorial, business, and printing). During your tour, talk to an executive from the business side about management's relations with reporters, editors, and

photographers, and what makes a "good" newspaper, magazine, or internet news site.

Option B—Radio and Television Journalism. Do ALL of the following:
(1) All on the same day, watch a local and national network newscast, listen to a radio newscast, and (with your parent or guardian's permission) view a national broadcast news source online. List the different news items and features presented, the different elements used, and the time in minutes and seconds and the online space devoted to each story. Compare the story lists and discuss whether the stories are fair and accurate. Explain why different news outlets treated the stories differently and/or presented a different point of view.
(2) Visit a radio or television station. Ask for a tour of the various departments, concentrating on those related to news broadcasts. During your tour, talk to the station manager or other station management executive about station operations, particularly how management and the news staff work together, and what makes a "good" station. If possible, go with a reporter to cover a news event.

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

None

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

Req.#8 – research in advance and come prepared to discuss.

Personal Fitness (9 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.)

Requirements #1, 2, 3, 8. Bring a complete and current copy of your health form, parts A, B & C as the counselor must review prior to outdoor activities. Please review the study resources available on the Scouting America website and be prepared to discuss in class. Personal Fitness Merit Badge | Scouting America. 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 the dental 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.

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

Scouts must bring a wi-fi capable laptop or large tablet. Complete Requirement 6 in advance using the resources available on Scouting America at https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/programming/.

TRAINING CLASSES

All adults taking classes must be registered Scouters and have current YPT. Bring pen and paper for note-taking.

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

No prerequisites. Please bring a digital copy of the Guide to Advancement. Participants will be asked to observe and assist in other classes in the afternoon session as possible. No prior experience or preparation is necessary.

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

No prerequisites