



## 2026 Merit Badge University

### Class Catalog

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Visit [www.scoutingevent.com/138-2026MeritBadgeUniversity](http://www.scoutingevent.com/138-2026MeritBadgeUniversity) to register

**Scouting America**  
W. D. Boyce Council



## Class Catalog

2026 Merit Badge University at Peoria Riverfront Museum

### Merit Badge University (Scheduled Classes)

**MBU25** 1-4 PM  
Distillery Labs 2nd Floor  
Board Room  
Fred Hoyt



#### American Business (2019 version)

Earning the 'American Business' merit badge can help Scouts learn practical business matters that will be useful throughout life. Learning how businesses function will help you understand society and uncover a number of career options.

**Minimum number of participants:** 4

**Maximum number of participants:** 20

<https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/american-business/>

**Prerequisites:** Requirements: 5, & 6

MBC email: fhoyt@iwu.edu

**MBU1** 1-4 PM  
Peoria Riverfront Museum:  
Bronzeville, Joyful  
Resistance exhibits, GST  
Lynette Hooper



#### American Cultures (2006 version)

The United States is a nation of immigrants. Every person came to America from somewhere else - or their ancestors did - and understanding these various cultural backgrounds can help Scouts to live in harmony with others in our varied and increasingly multicultural society.

**Minimum number of participants:** 4

**Maximum number of participants:** 12

<https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/american-cultures/>

**Prerequisites:** Requirements: 1 (e covered in class) & 3

MBC email: lynettejewelhooper@gmail.com

**MBU26** 1-4 PM  
Peoria Riverfront Museum:  
The Promise of Liberty  
exhibit, GST  
Karen Zettler



#### American Heritage (2014 version)

Every Scout swears to an oath that includes duty to his country. A better understanding of American heritage, the ways in which the past has lead to our present nation, is key to truly knowing what it means to be an American.

**Minimum number of participants:** 4

**Maximum number of participants:** 12

<https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/american-heritage/>

**Prerequisites:** Requirements: 2 (excluding a) 3, & 4

MBC email: kbzettler@hotmail.com

**MBU27** 1-4 PM  
Distillery Labs Room 215  
Zach Garman



#### American Labor (2016 version)

The labor movement in America seeks to ensure that the civil rights of laborers are protected in the workplace, especially in regard to wages, hours, and working conditions.

**Minimum number of participants:** 4

**Maximum number of participants:** 8

<https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/american-labor/>

**Prerequisites:** Review the requirements and talk to a family member about their experience with a union and labor issues they have experienced at work. (If not in a union, or if in a union, how was the issue resolved).

MBC email: zrgarman@gmail.com

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### MBU2 1-4 PM

Peoria Riverfront Museum:  
Gallery Auditorium  
Stephanie Hoy



#### Art (2014 version)

This merit badge concentrates on two-dimensional art, specifically drawing and painting in various media, including an introduction to design applications in the fields of graphic arts and industrial design, history and design principles, and how these fields relate to fine art.

**Minimum number of participants:** 5

**Maximum number of participants:** 25

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

**Prerequisites:** Requirements: 4, & 5

For #4 - Do 2 of the art renders not including watercolor or pen and ink.

1 - 1:45 - Tour of Joyful Resistance

1:45 - 3 - Art instruction in the auditorium

3-4 - Art making activities

MBC email: stephanieannehoy@gmail.com

### MBU28 1-4 PM

Distillery Labs Room 204  
Jeremy Etheridge



#### Artificial Intelligence (AI) (2025 version)

The Artificial Intelligence (AI) Merit Badge introduces Scouts to the fundamentals of AI and automation through hands-on activities and real-world examples. Scouts learn key terms, explore how AI and automation are used in daily life, school, and work, and examine ethical concerns like bias and privacy. They also investigate deepfakes, practice communicating effectively with AI, and apply their knowledge through a project or teaching activity. Finally, Scouts explore career paths in AI by researching or interviewing professionals in the field.

**Minimum number of participants:** 5

**Maximum number of participants:** 20

<https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/artificial-intelligence/>

**Prerequisites:** Requirement 7a - Bring to Session

Requirement 7b - You will present

Scout needs to bring a laptop, tablet or phone - fully charged - with internet capability

MBC email: ethridgebills@gmail.com

### MBU3 1-4 PM

Peoria Riverfront Museum:  
Auditorium, Planetarium  
Andrew Richey



#### Astronomy (2025 version)

In learning about astronomy, Scouts study how activities in space affect our own planet and bear witness to the wonders of the night sky: the nebulae, or giant clouds of gas and dust where new stars are born; old stars dying and exploding; meteor showers and shooting stars; the moon, planets, and a dazzling array of stars.

**Minimum number of participants:** 5

**Maximum number of participants:** 50

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

**Prerequisites:** Requirements: 1, 3, 5b, 6b, 6d, 7, 8

1 - 1:45 - instruction by Nick Rae in the auditorium

2 - 2:45 - Planetarium: The Sky Tonight

3 - 3:45 - Planetarium: Tour of the Universe

3:45 - 4 - Q & A with the Planetarium Operator

MBC email: drewr82@gmail.com

### MBU29 1-4 PM

Distillery Labs Room 225  
Stacey Reuter



#### Bird Study (2024 version)

Birds are among the most fascinating creatures on Earth. Many are beautifully colored. Others are accomplished singers. Many of the most important discoveries about birds and how they live have been made by amateur birders. In pursuing this hobby, a Scout might someday make a valuable contribution to our understanding of the natural world.

**Minimum number of participants:** 3

**Maximum number of participants:** 4

<https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/bird-study/>

**Prerequisites:** Requirement 5

While doing the field observation prereq #5, include field notes regarding sound and

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calls needed for 5 species as described in reg #7.

Scouts will receive a partial badge.

Follow up is required on requirements 9 & 12

Students are encouraged to bring a phone, tablet, or laptop with internet connectivity for progressing on requirement 12 as time permits.

MBC email: lillshy1@yahoo.com

**MBU30** 1-4 PM

Greater Peoria Sanitary  
District Conference Room /  
Lab  
Adam Shaw



### Chemistry (2025 version)

Chemistry explores how substances react with each other, how they change, how certain forces connect molecules, and how molecules are made are all parts of chemistry. Stretch your imagination to envision molecules that cannot be seen - but can be proven to exist - and you become a chemist.

**Minimum number of participants:** 5

**Maximum number of participants:** 16

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

**Prerequisites:** MBC email: ashaw@gpsd.org

**MBU13** 1-4 PM

Mark Bills Middle School  
Emily Dawson



### Chess (2013 version)

Chess builds critical thinking, forward thinking, and proper sportsmanship in young people.

**Minimum number of participants:** 5

**Maximum number of participants:** 50

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

**Prerequisites:** MBC email: emily.dawson77@gmail.com

**MBU17** 1-4 PM

Distillery Labs Room 112  
Gwyn Krause



### Citizenship in the Community (2025 version)

A nation is a patchwork of communities that differ from each other and may be governed differently. But regardless of how local communities differ, they all have one point in common: In the United States, local government means self-government. Good citizens help to make decisions about their community through their elected local officials.

**Minimum number of participants:** 5

**Maximum number of participants:** 20

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

**Prerequisites:** Scouts will receive a partial badge

Requirements: #2 (bring in map with locations marked and distances recorded),

5, 6, 7a, 7b, 8

Completed after the MBU: 7c

MBC email: gwyndlyn@mchsi.com

**MBU18** 1-4 PM

Caterpillar Visitor Center:  
Lunchroom  
Stephen Briedert



### Citizenship in the Nation #1 (2022 version)

As Scouts fulfill the requirements for this merit badge, they will learn how to become active citizens are aware of and grateful for their liberties and rights, to participate in their governments and protect their freedom, helping to defend their country and standing up for individual rights on behalf of all its citizens.

**Minimum number of participants:** 5

**Maximum number of participants:** 30

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

**Prerequisites:** Requirements: 5, 7, & 8

Review the pamphlet

MBC email: swbriedert@gmail.com

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**MBU34** 1-4 PM  
Contemporary Art Center  
Andy Kravetz



### Citizenship in the Nation #2 (2022 version)

As Scouts fulfill the requirements for this merit badge, they will learn how to become active citizens are aware of and grateful for their liberties and rights, to participate in their governments and protect their freedom, helping to defend their country and standing up for individual rights on behalf of all its citizens.

**Minimum number of participants:** 5

**Maximum number of participants:** 40

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

**Prerequisites:** Requirements: 5, 7, & 8

Review the pamphlet

MBC email: andy.kravetz@gmail.com

**MBU19** 1-4 PM  
Distillery Labs Room 107  
Melissa Moran



### Citizenship in the World (2016 version)

Scouts who earn the Citizenship in the World merit badge will discover that they are already citizens of the world. How good a world citizen each person is depends on his willingness to understand and appreciate the values, traditions, and concerns of people in other countries.

**Minimum number of participants:** 5

**Maximum number of participants:** 20

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

**Prerequisites:** Requirements: 3a, 3b, 7a, 7b

MBC email: melissa515@yahoo.com

**MBU20** 1-4 PM  
Distillery Labs 1st Floor  
Food Incubator  
Tina Maxwell



### Cooking (2025 version)

The Cooking merit badge introduces principles of cooking that can be used both at home or in the outdoors. Scouts who earn this badge will learn about food safety, nutritional guidelines, meal planning, and methods of food preparation, and will review the variety of culinary (or cooking) careers available.

**Minimum number of participants:** 4

**Maximum number of participants:** 10

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

**Prerequisites:** Requirements: 1, & 7

Scouts will receive a partial badge.

First Class and above

MBC email: blessedmom0308@gmail.com

**MBU31** 1-4 PM  
Peoria Police Department  
Community Room  
Bill Maddox



### Crime Prevention (2025 version)

Preventing crime, which can be as simple as reducing the opportunities for crime to occur, is far less costly than apprehending and bringing legal action against those who break the law and it helps save people from the anguish of being victims.

**Minimum number of participants:** 5

**Maximum number of participants:** 24

<https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/crime-prevention/>

**Prerequisites:** Requirements: 2a, 2b, 2c, 2d, 2e, 2f & 2g

3a, 3b, 4b, 4c, 5a, 5b, & 11

Read the pamphlet

Scouts will receive a partial badge.

MBC email: warmaddox@gmail.com

**MBU32** 1-4 PM  
Distillery Labs Room 205  
Keith Brooks



### Cybersecurity (2025 version)

The Cybersecurity Merit Badge equips Scouts with essential knowledge and skills to navigate and protect the digital world. Scouts learn about online safety, ethical behavior, cyber threats, and how to defend against them using tools like firewalls, antivirus software, and strong passwords. They explore encryption, connected devices,

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and the risks of public Wi-Fi, while also practicing safe habits like updating software and backing up data. Through hands-on activities, Scouts investigate real-world cyber incidents, participate in cybersecurity challenges, and explore career opportunities in the field.

**Minimum number of participants:** 5

**Maximum number of participants:** 15

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

**Prerequisites:** Requirement: 4e1 - Assigned the week prior to the event

Scouts need to bring a laptop (preferred) or tablet - fully charged - with internet capability.

MBC email: keith.brooks@skbcyber.com

**MBU9** 1-4 PM

Caterpillar Visitor Center:  
Classroom  
Josh Crowder



### Engineering (2024 version)

Engineers use both science and technology to turn ideas into reality, devising all sorts of things, ranging from a tiny, low-cost battery for your cell phone to a gigantic dam across the mighty Yangtze River in China.

**Minimum number of participants:** 5

**Maximum number of participants:** 30

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

**Prerequisites:** MBC email: crowderx5@gmail.com

**MBU21** 1-4 PM

Distillery Labs Room 226  
David Edwards



### Entrepreneurship (2014 version)

By earning the Entrepreneurship merit badge, Scouts will learn about identifying opportunities, creating and evaluating business ideas, and exploring the feasibility (how doable it is) of an idea for a new business. They will also have the chance to fit everything together as they start and run their own business ventures.

**Minimum number of participants:** 4

**Maximum number of participants:** 8

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

**Prerequisites:** Requirement 3

Scouts will need a smart phone or laptop - fully charged - with internet capability for research.

MBC email: edwards24@gmail.com

**MBU24** 1-4 PM

Peoria Riverfront Museum:  
Z Space Classroom Gallery  
Jenna Stoia



### Insect Study (2025 version)

In earning the Insect Study merit badge, Scouts will glance into the strange and fascinating world of the insect. There, they will meet tiny creatures with tremendous strength and speed, see insects that undergo startling changes in habits and form as they grow, and learn how insects see, hear, taste, smell, and feel the world around them.

**Minimum number of participants:** 5

**Maximum number of participants:** 20

<https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/insect-study/>

**Prerequisites:** Requirements: 1a, 1b, 5b, 6a, 6b, 9

MBC email: lilystar119@yahoo.com

**MBU22** 1-4 PM

Distillery Labs Room 132  
Korey Atterberry



### Inventing (2023 version)

Inventing involves finding technological solutions to real-world problems. Inventors understand the importance of inventing to society because they creatively think of ways to improve the lives of others. Explore the world of inventing through this new merit badge, and discover your inner inventiveness.

**Minimum number of participants:** 4

**Maximum number of participants:** 8

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

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**Prerequisites:** Requirements: 6 and 7, be prepared to discuss 2b, 3c  
MBC email: koreyatterberry@gmail.com

**MBU8** 1-4 PM

Caterpillar Visitor Center:  
Boardroom  
Charlie Zimmerman



### Mining in Society (2022 version)

Mining has been an important part of our nation since the 19th century. Today, the industry employs 3 million Americans, directly and indirectly, and is a major contributor to the global mining landscape. This merit badge covers the history of mining, explores the status of mining in the 21st century, introduces Scouts to modern mining careers, and explores the all-important topic of mining safety.

**Minimum number of participants:** 5

**Maximum number of participants:** 16

<https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/mining-in-society/>

**Prerequisites:** Requirements: 1, & 2

Please send prereqs to Charlie Zimmerman at the jotform below prior to the MBU for his review to ensure timely completion of the merit badge requirements. The merit badge pamphlet is also a great source of information.

<https://form.jotform.com/210995619890167>

Here is a link with prereqs and information for completion: [https://scoutingevent.com/Download/138169565/SM/Mining\\_Prereqs.pdf](https://scoutingevent.com/Download/138169565/SM/Mining_Prereqs.pdf)

MBC email: clz@ideacoms.net

**MBU33** 1-4 PM

W. D. Boyce Council Offices  
Erik Heinonen



### Reptile and Amphibian Study (2023 version)

Boys always have been interested in snakes, turtles, lizards, and alligators, as well as frogs and salamanders. Developing knowledge about these captivating creatures leads to an appreciation for all native wildlife; understanding the life cycle of a reptile or amphibian and keeping one as a pet can be a good introduction to natural history; and knowing about venomous species can help Scouts to be prepared to help in case of an emergency.

**Additional Fee:** \$10.00

**Minimum number of participants:** 5

**Maximum number of participants:** 20

<https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/reptile-and-amphibian-study/>

**Prerequisites:** Scouts will receive a partial completion

Additional \$10 fee required

Transportation provided

Requirements 8a or 8b will be completed on their own

MBC email: erheinonen@gmail.com

**MBU7** 1-4 PM

Peoria Riverfront Museum:  
Boardroom  
Scott Fishel



### Scouting Heritage (2014 version)

Introduces youth to the history of the Boy Scouts of America. They'll learn it all - from Scouting's beginnings under Lord Baden-Powell to the history of their own troop.

**Minimum number of participants:** 4

**Maximum number of participants:** 25

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

**Prerequisites:** Requirements 4b OR 4c

5, 6, & 8

smfishel@gmail.com

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**Leader Training (Scheduled Classes)**

**CPR Training**

**LT2** 1-4 PM  
Distillery Labs 2nd Floor  
Lobby  
Theresa Hoadley



**Additional Fee:** \$25.00  
**Minimum number of participants:** 2  
**Maximum number of participants:** 8  
**Prerequisites:** \$25 fee

**Leader Training - Troop Committee**

**Minimum number of participants:** 1  
**Maximum number of participants:** 100

**Parent Info Meeting**

I'm an Adult in the Troop - Now What?  
Brief Info session for parents not currently registered as leaders  
**Minimum number of participants:** 1  
**Maximum number of participants:** 24



I'm an Adult in the Troop - Now What?  
Brief Info session for parents not currently registered as leaders  
**Minimum number of participants:** 1  
**Maximum number of participants:** 24

**LT3** 1-4 PM  
Distillery Labs Main Lobby  
Stacey Reuter

**LT4** 1-4 PM  
Peoria Riverfront Museum:  
TBD  
Stacey Reuter