



2026 Merit Badge University

Class Catalog

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Visit www.scoutingevent.com/138-2026MeritBadgeUniversity to register



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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 (2026 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 (2026 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
Peoria City Hall Council
Chambers Room 400 /
Room 404
Gwyn Krause



Citizenship in the Community (2026 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: swbreidert@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

MBU15 1-4 PM
Distillery Labs Room 112
Melissa Olivero



Law (2025 version)

Earning this merit badge enables a Scout to learn about the history and kinds of laws, the purpose and methods of law enforcement, consumer protection agencies, emerging law, and careers in the legal profession.

Minimum number of participants: 4

Maximum number of participants: 10

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

MBU8 1-4 PM
Caterpillar Visitor Center:
Boardroom
Charlie Zimmerman



Mining in Society (2026 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

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 (2026 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)

LT2	1-4 PM		CPR Training
Distillery Labs 2nd Floor			Additional Fee: \$25.00
Lobby			Minimum number of participants: 2
Theresa Hoadley			Maximum number of participants: 8
			Prerequisites: \$25 fee
LT3	1-4 PM		Leader Training - Troop Committee
Distillery Labs Main Lobby			Minimum number of participants: 1
Tina Hammer			Maximum number of participants: 100
LT4	1-4 PM		Parent Info Meeting
Peoria Riverfront Museum:			I'm an Adult in the Troop - Now What?
TBD			Brief Info session for parents not currently registered as leaders
Kris Reuter			Minimum number of participants: 1
			Maximum number of participants: 24