

Cybersecurity Merit Badge Center

Prerequisites

To ensure you gain the most from this Merit Badge Center, please complete the following prerequisites prior to attending.

1a

- With parental approval scouts must watch the Personal Safety Awareness "Digital Safety" video <https://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/scouts-bsa/>

4e

- With parental guidance, choose option 1 or 2, and perform the steps required and **come prepared to discuss.**

5 c

- Scouts **must** bring a smart phone, tablet, and a Windows, Mac, or Linux computer to this event that they are able to perform the following on:
 - The scout will be required to change passwords, demonstrate how to use an authenticator (Microsoft, Google, etc.), Set up a password manager (LastPass, Proton Pass, Zoho Vault, BitWarden, etc.), Run a virus scan (and potentially install an antivirus app if one is not installed), Use a tool to see what programs and / or processes are running on the device, use a command line to show open network connections, and demonstrate how to back up a device to another location or the cloud.
 - Ideally the scout will arrive with a computer and a smart phone or tablet to accomplish the requirements fully.
- Research best practices to protect a home computer or network and make a checklist of 5 things you can do to stay secure.
- Identify one or more vulnerabilities on your computer or home network and with permission from your guardian, take the required actions to fix it. **Come prepared to discuss this.**

6.c.1 (you may use one of the other options for 6.c as well if you would prefer, but you will need to bring hardware / software to demonstrate and meet the requirement)

- Create your own encryption code, such as a substitution cipher or code book, and demonstrate using it to encrypt and decrypt a message. Describe the strengths and weaknesses of your code.
 - This does not need to be digital; you can develop and write out a cypher and come ready to discuss it and encrypt / decrypt a written message.

8.a

- Learn about a cybersecurity competition, camp, or other activity you could participate in (either now or in the future). Share what you learned with your counselor, including the type of activity, time commitment, and age of participants. **Come prepared to discuss.**