

University of Illinois Springfield

Merit Badge University

MARCH 8, 2025



PARTICIPANT GUIDE

WELCOME

to Merit Badge University (MBU) at the University of Illinois Springfield. We are excited to offer exciting merit badge opportunities and leader training while showcasing our beautiful city and university campus. This is the third of what we hope will be many more years. Lunch, program materials, parking and an event patch are included in the \$30 registration fee. If troops wish to stay for the weekend, there are two camping options nearby. Both require advance registration.

- Camp Illinek, 6610 Iron Bridge Rd., Chatham (a 10 min drive to UIS).
- Double J Campground, 9683 Palm Rd., Chatham, (15 min drive to UIS).

This participant guide is a tool to make the event a success for everyone. Inside, you will find course offerings. We want to accommodate the newest Scouts and leaders as well as the most seasoned. We have gathered experts from inside and outside of Scouting to bring you a comprehensive program.

Once again, welcome to Merit Badge University!
Yours in Scouting!

Abraham Lincoln Council
University of Illinois Springfield



MBU PHILOSOPHY



The purpose of Merit Badge University is to have fun and expand merit badge instruction for our youth. Merit badge counselors are solely responsible for determining if the requirements for the merit badge are met by the Scout. The organizers of MBU are not responsible for guaranteeing an individual Scout will fulfill all of the requirements in one session. Some pre-requisites are needed for some of the merit badges. A few merit badges will have things that need to be completed after the course. Please contact your individual counselor if you have a concern. Simply showing up does not guarantee completion of a merit badge. Active participation is required.

Schedule of Events

Saturday, March 8, 2025

7:30-8:15 a.m. - Registration @ UIS Student Union

8:15 a.m. - Welcome & group photo

8:45-11:30 a.m. - MBU Morning Session

9 a.m. MBU Adult Training (CPR & AED Certification - additional \$15 fee)

11:30 a.m. - 12:50 p.m. - Lunch @ UIS Student Union & campus scavenger hunt

1-3:45 p.m. - MBU Afternoon Session

1 p.m. - MBU Adult trainings (College 101 & Committee Member Training)

4 p.m. - Check out



Registration



- Registration opens mid-January, 2025
- Classes will be limited to no more than 15 Scouts unless noted.
- Classes are offered on a first come/first serve basis.



- To register, go to www.alincolnbsa.org.
- Classes are not reserved until registration fees are paid.
- Participants can be added as they put in their requests for merit badges.



Cost









\$30 - Scout

\$15 - Leader/adult

\$30 - Leader/adult taking CPR/AED

- Fee includes merit badge instruction, lunch and an MBU patch.
- Program planning is calculated upon the number of pre-registered participants. It is our policy to refund only as a result of an emergency situation.
- Registration is for the full day, a half-day option is not available.
- Participants who choose not to attend, will not be granted a refund.
- Fees may be transferred to another participant, not already registered.
- Please present refund requests in writing to the Abraham Lincoln Council, Asst. Scout Executive, Pete Carteaux.
- Requests will be handled as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Merit Badge (class limit)	Recommended age	AM	PM	Important information (pre or post requisites)
Art	Any	x		None
Aviation	Any	All Day	-----	Must bring signed activity consent form to participate.
Basketry	Any	x		None
Chess	Any		x	None
Citizenship in the Community 	Any	x	x	5, 7a, 7b, 7c Watch "The Blindside" before coming.
Citizenship in the Nation 	Any	All Day	----	Must bring a signed activity consent form to participate. MB counselor will be in touch via email prior to class
Citizenship in Society 	13 or older	x	x	Prereqs: 2A, 2B, 6A, 6B & 8. Discussion of the research requirements (2&8) will be done with the class. Also come to class prepared to discuss questions related to personal experiences in requirements 3 & 5.
Citizenship in the World 	First Class and up	x		Merit Badge counselor will be in touch via email for pre-reqs.
Communication 	Any	x	x	Prereqs: 4, 5, prepare an idea for requirement #6.
Digital Technology	Any		x	Bring a USB drive. Watch the Personal Safety Awareness "Digital Safety" video.

Merit Badge (class limit)	Recommended age	AM	PM	Important information (pre or post requisites)
Emergency Preparedness 	Any		x	Merit Badge counselor will be in touch via email for pre-reqs.
Engineering	First Class and up	x		Merit Badge counselor will be in touch via email for pre-reqs.
Environmental Science 	Any	All Day		Merit Badge counselor will be in touch via email for pre-reqs.
Fire Safety	Any		x	Merit Badge counselor will be in touch via email for pre-reqs. Must bring a signed Activity Consent Form.
First Timers Rank Advancement** & Fingerprinting Merit Badge	First year Scouts only	All Day	-----	#6 in Scout Rank. #7 will be completed in your troop. Bring your Scout book. Scouts must have permission to watch BSA's Personal Safety Awareness videos on bullying, digital safety, abuse and youth protection policies
First Aid 	Any	All Day	-----	5a - Assemble and bring a First Aid kit.
Health Professions	12 and up	x		#9
Leatherwork	Any		x	Bring a leather baseball glove. Scouts will use it to learn to clean leather.
Nuclear Science	13 and up	All Day	-----	Merit Badge counselor will be in touch via email for pre-reqs.

Merit Badge (class limit)	Recommended age	AM	PM	Important information (pre or post requisites)
Photography	Any	x	x	Come with a camera or smartphone for taking photos. Watch the Personal Safety Awareness "Digital Safety" video.
Radio	Any	x	x	Merit Badge counselor will be in touch via email for pre-reqs.
Reptile & Amphibian Study	Any	x	x	Pre: 1,2,7,8
Scholarship	8th grade and up	x		#1 a or b and #3
Traffic Safety	Any		x	None
Weather	Any	x		#10
Welding (class limit of 5)	15 or older	x	x	7a, 7b - Wear long sleeve shirt and long sleeve pants, closed toed shoes (no Crocs). Clothing may receive burn holes.

**First Timers Rank Advancement will include requirements from the Scout Rank. Scouts will complete all requirements except #6, which is a prerequisite and #7 which will need to be completed within the Scout's troop.



Scouts should download and bring the latest version of the merit badge workbook for the badge/s they will be attending.



Leader & Adult Courses

Morning



CPR/AED

Additional \$15 fee

Participants learn how to perform chest compressions and rescue breathing to maintain circulation and oxygenation until medical help arrives. The training also covers how to use an Automated External Defibrillator (AED), which delivers an electric shock to the heart to restore a normal rhythm. CPR/AED training empowers individuals to act confidently and swiftly in emergencies, potentially saving lives by providing immediate care until professionals can take over

Leader & Adult Courses

Afternoon



College 101

The college application process looks a lot different today than it did 20 years ago. No matter what college or university your youth may attend; learn about what questions to ask, how to navigate financial aid, scholarships and how to maximize the college spend.



Committee Member Training

Scouting America is successful when parents and volunteers are involved. Being a committee member of a Pack, Troop or Crew allows diverse experiences and expertise to be included when guiding, supporting and facilitating Scouting activities.



Details

Dress Code

Scouts are encouraged to wear their BSA Scout uniform. However, a BSA Scout or unit t-shirt is acceptable.

Check In

- Check-in will begin at 7:45 a.m. on Saturday. Please allow our volunteers to be best prepared to serve all Scouts by not arriving too early or late.
- Parking is allowed in lots F, G or J. Please see the map in this packet.
- Please let staff know if your troop is running late by contacting Kathryn Kleeman at 217-414-6493 or James Koeppe, (859) 806-6140. If you have questions before the event, please contact Pete Carteaux, Asst. Scout Executive at (217) 529-2727.
- To ensure the merit badge counselors have enough time to present/discuss the materials with each participant in the time allotted, we are unable to check-in Scouts on Saturday after 9 a.m. for the morning session.



Details

- Upon receipt of your packet, leaders are required to check their packets to confirm registered classes and not any changes that may have been made after the pre-registration was made.
- Scouts registering for Citizenship in the Nation, Aviation and Fire Safety will be offsite for part of the day. Transportation will be provided by UIS, but Troop leaders or parents are welcome to drive their Scout. These Scouts will need a signed Activity Waiver in order to participate in these merit badges.
- Any changes or corrections must be reported upon registration that morning.



