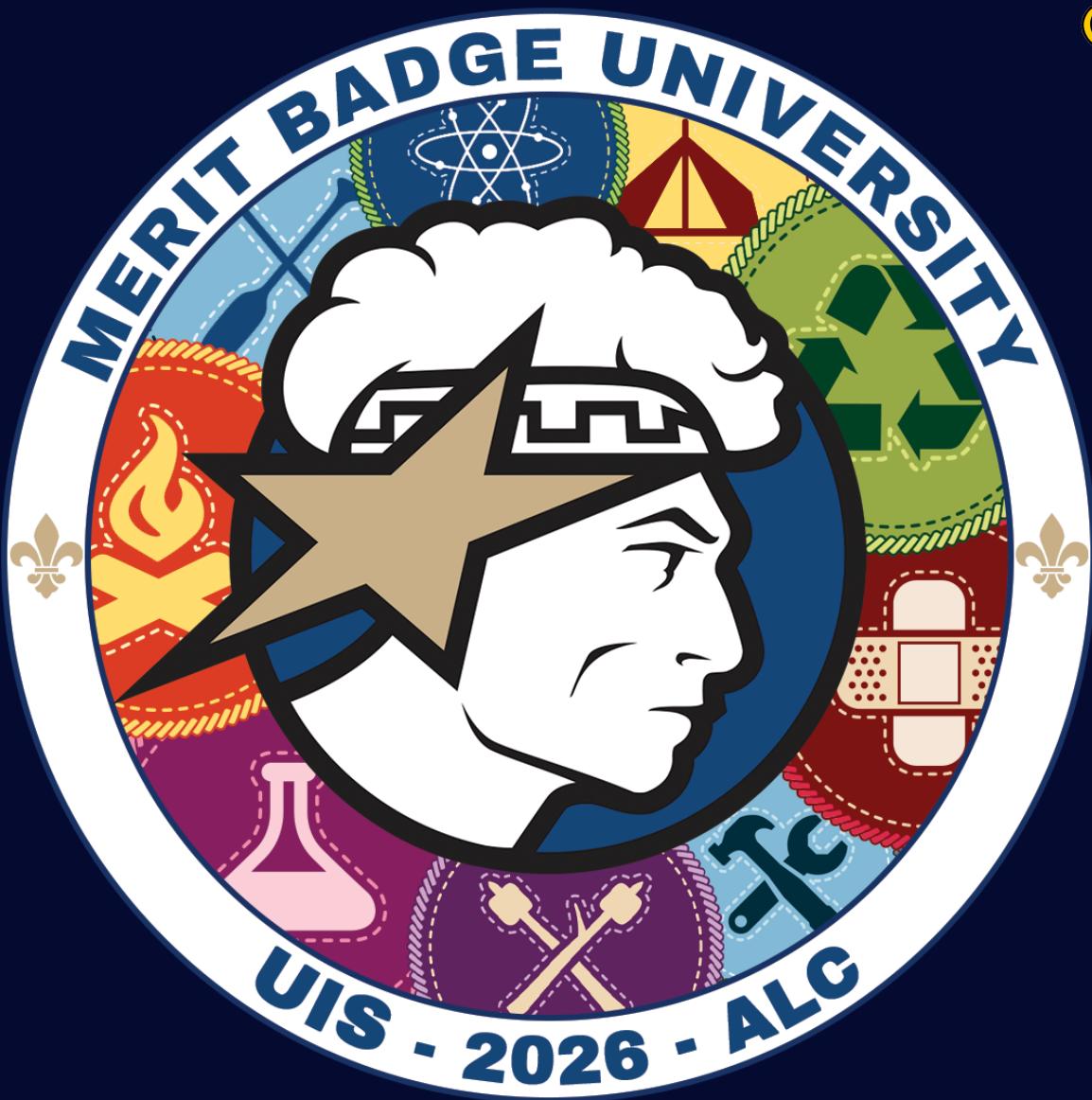


University of Illinois Springfield

Merit Badge University

MARCH 7, 2026



PARTICIPANT GUIDE

WELCOME

to the 4th Annual 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. 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).
 - Campmaster Lodge East - indoor space for 4 adults or Scouts
 - Campmaster Lodge West - indoor space for 4 adults or Scouts
 - Sailing Center Crews Quarters - indoor space for 4 adults and 16 Scouts
- 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 7, 2026

7:45-8:15 a.m. - Registration @ The Recreation & Athletic Center (TRAC), 2171 University Drive, Springfield, 62703. ****Note this is a different check-in location than years past.**

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

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

9 a.m. MBU Adult Training (Committee Training)

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

1 p.m. - MBU Adult trainings (College 101 & Position Specific Training)

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

4 p.m. - Departure



Registration

- Registration opens mid-January 2026 and closes Feb. 28.
- 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.



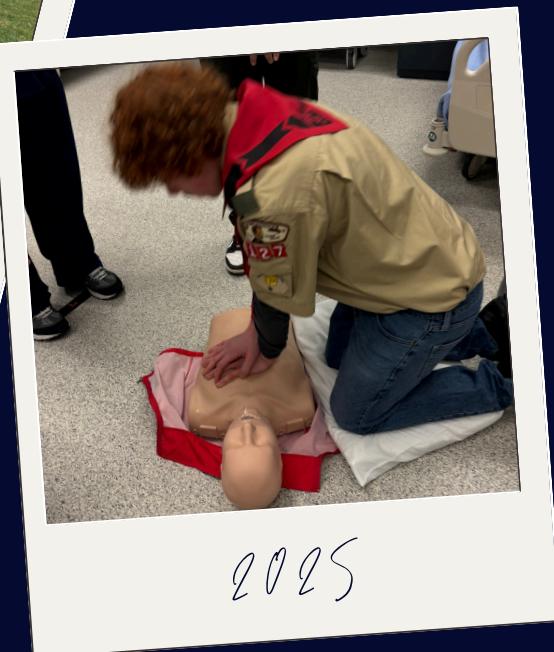
- Classes are not reserved until registration fees are paid.
- Some badges have age or rank requirements.
- MBU qualifies for Share the Adventure. In-district Scouts who bring a non-Scouting friend get 50% off their registration fee and the friend comes for free.



First Timers

For Scouts, who just crossed over, the First Timers Rank Advancement will include requirements from the Scout and Tenderfoot ranks. Scouts will be able to take a 2nd merit badge in the afternoon.

Cost



\$30 - Scout

\$40 - Scout (after Feb. 15)

\$15 - Leader/adult

- Fee includes merit badge instruction, lunch and a 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)
<u>American Labor</u>	Any	x		Pre or Post Req #2, bring completed workbook
<u>Art</u>	Any		x	Be prepared for an outdoor walk.
<u>Artificial Intelligence (AI)</u>	Any	x		
<u>Automotive Maintenance</u>	Any	x		
<u>Aviation</u>	13 or older	All Day	-----	5, signed activity consent form
<u>Basketry</u>	Any	x	x	
<u>Chess</u>	Any	x		Come having read the online Chess Merit Badge pamphlet.
<u>Citizenship in the Community</u> 	Any	x		3a,b, 5. Watch "Stand and Deliver" prior to class. 7a,b,c
<u>Citizenship in the Nation</u> 	Any	All Day	-----	Signed activity consent form- travel to Capitol & Lincoln site. MB counselor will be in touch via email
<u>Citizenship in Society</u> 	13 or older	x	x	Prereqs: 2A, 2B, 6A, 6B, 7 & 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.
<u>Citizenship in the World</u> 	First Class and up	x		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)
<u>Communication</u> 	Any		x	Come prepared with #3, the interview from #4, and notes from #5
<u>Crime Prevention</u>	Any		x	
<u>Cybersecurity</u>	Any	All day	-----	1a and review 3b
<u>Digital Technology</u>	Any		x	
<u>Emergency Preparedness</u> 	Any		x	Merit Badge counselor will be in touch via email for pre-reqs.
<u>Environmental Science</u> 	Any	All Day		5 & 6, bring printed workbook.
<u>Fire Safety</u>	Any	x		5E, 5G & 8. Must bring a signed Activity Consent Form.
<u>First Aid</u> 	Any	All Day	-----	5a - Assemble and bring a First Aid kit.
First Timers Rank Advancement	First year Scouts only	x		#3b, #6 and #7 Scout Rank will need to be completed in your troop. Bring your Scout book.
<u>Fishing</u>	Any	x	x	Bring a fishing pole. There will be a "post" requirement of 9 & 10. Need signed activity consent form.
<u>Genealogy</u>	Any	x	x	
<u>Health Care Professions</u>	12 and up	x		8,9

Merit Badge (class limit)	Recommended age	AM	PM	Important information (pre or post requisites)
<u>Journalism</u>	Any		x	Be ready to explain and discuss #1; Pre- #5; Post requirement #4
<u>Law</u>	Any		x	
<u>Photography</u>	Any	x	x	Come with a camera or smartphone for taking photos.
<u>Pulp & Paper</u>	Any		x	
<u>Radio</u>	Any	All Day	-----	
<u>Railroading</u>	Any		x	Complete workbook. Photo of #7 okay. Counselor will email.
<u>Reptile & Amphibian Study</u>	Any	x	x	1,2,7,8
<u>Robotics</u>	Any	All Day	----	
<u>Surveying</u>	Any	All Day	---	Dress for the outdoors. Complete 1 & 6. Read over the online Surveying Merit Badge pamphlet.
<u>Theatre</u>	Any		x	1
<u>Traffic Safety</u>	Any		x	
<u>Weather</u>	Any	x		#10
<u>Welding</u> (class limit of 6)	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.

Leader & Adult Courses

Morning



Committee Training

Gain essential knowledge for supporting youth, making your role easier and more effective, ensuring program quality and safety, and boosting leader confidence, helping your unit run like a well-oiled machine by understanding finance, administration, and youth development - all crucial for delivering a great Scouting experience.

What You'll Learn:

- Committee Responsibilities: Specific duties for the unit committee.
- Scouting's Mission: Deeper understanding of Scouting America's purpose, values and methods.
- Practical Skills: How to manage finances, recruit volunteers and handle administrative functions.
- Resources: Where to find additional help and literature.

In essence, training equips you to be a competent, confident, and effective part of the leadership team, directly contributing to a successful Scouting unit for your youth.

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.

Leader & Adult Courses

Afternoon



Chartered Organization Representative Training

Help ensure that your organization's Scouting unit thrives by aligning with the Boy Scouts of America's mission, providing necessary support, and guaranteeing a safe, high-quality and impactful program for youth. Ultimately, it will enhance leader confidence and improve youth retention.

This training prepares you to fulfill your responsibilities as a key leader, connecting your community group (such as a church or school) with Scouting's valuable youth development goals.

You'll learn

- Your specific responsibilities in overseeing Scouting units.
- How to provide a safe meeting place and capable adult leaders.
- How to coordinate between your organization and the BSA.
- The importance of youth safety and how to implement safeguards.
- Builds Community: Scouting enhances your organization's reputation by connecting it with positive community-focused 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. at The Recreation & Athletic Center (TRAC), 2171 University Dr., Springfield, IL, 62703.
**Please note this is a different building than previous years.
- Please allow our volunteers to be best prepared to serve all Scouts by not arriving too early or late.
- Parking is allowed in lot I. 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.

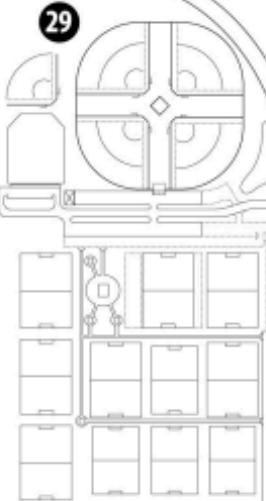
Details



- Scouts should come prepared with a printed workbook for their registered merit badges, a pen/pencil and any other prerequisite for their badge/s.
- 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, Fishing 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.

UNIVERSITY OF
ILLINOIS
SPRINGFIELD

11th Street



Campus Buildings

- 1 BRK – Brookens Library
- 2 BSB – Business Services Building
- 3 CCR – Child Care Center
- 4 HSB – Health & Sciences Building
- 5 HRB – Human Resources Building
- 6 PDB – Police Department
- 7 PAC – Public Affairs Center including Sangamon Auditorium
- 8 WUIS – Radio Station
NPR/WUIS Building
- 9 REC – Recreation and Athletic Center
- 10 RSL – Residential Simulation Lab
- 11 SAB – Student Affairs Building
- 12 SLB – Student Life Building
- 13 UNION – Student Union
- 14 UHB – University Hall
- 15 VPA – Visual & Performing Arts Building

Student Housing

- 16 BBL – Bluebell Court
- 17 CLV – Clover Court
- 18 FRH – Founders Residence Hall
- 19 FXG – Foxglove Court
- 20 HBC – Homer L. Butler Commons (Housing Office)
- 21 LKR – Larkspur Court
- 22 LRH – Lincoln Residence Hall
- 23 MGR – Marigold Court
- 24 PRL – Pennyroyal Court
- 25 SFL – Sunflower Court
- 26 TRL – Trillium Court

Athletics/Recreation Locations

- 27 Baseball Diamond
- 28 Kiwanis Stadium
- 29 Softball Complex
- 30 REC Park

R.R.

Toronto Road

11th Street

Capital
Area
Career
Center

University Drive

Toronto Road

Shepherd Road

*Lincoln Land
Community College*

NORTH
↑

Ernest Hemingway Drive

Edgar Lee Masters Drive

Stevenson Drive

West Lake Shore Drive

10

To Spencer House

University Drive

West Lake Shore

Lot C
north

Lot C
south

Lot D

Lot E

Lot B

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Merit Badge University 2025



**Scouting
America**

Abraham Lincoln Council

Be part of our adventure



- March 14: S.T.E.A.M. Saturdays
- April 10: First Aid/CPR Training
- April 11: Wilderness First Aid Training
- April 24: Lincoln Pilgrimage
- May 2: IOWLS Training
- May 4: STEM Quest Cub Twilight Adventure
- May 16: BALOO Training
- May 16: Sporting Clays & Trap Showdown
- June 6: Cub Range Officer Training



Register at www.alincolnscouting.org



Scouts BSA Summer Camp

2026 SUMMER CAMP STAFF

LEADERS WANTED!!!

WATERFRONT

CLIMBING TOWER

COMMISSARY

NATURE CITY

RANGE ACTIVITIES

TRADING POST

OUTDOOR SKILLS

S.T.E.A.M.

ASST. RANGER

EAGLE QUEST

COUNSELOR IN TRAINING

HEALTH OFFICER



Staff Week: June 14-20

Week 1: June 21-27

Week 2: July 5-11



Visit <https://www.alincolnscouting.org/>

Or scan the QR code to go directly to the application



AMERICA 250

Camp Bunn

Abraham Lincoln Council
5259 Camp Lane
Hettick, Illinois 62649

Contact

Kyle Holtgrave
Camp Director
kyle.holtgrave@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE

May 16, 2026 at 10A.M.
Jacksonville Sportsman's Club
2021 New Lake Rd. Jacksonville, IL

CONTACT INFO

For any questions, please contact
Kris Kerwin at 217-836-5062 or
Kristopher.Kerwin@Scouting.org
<https://www.alincolnscouting.org/sporting-clays>



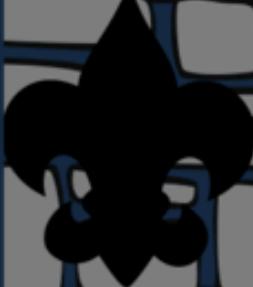
REGISTRATION

- \$100 for individual shooters
- \$500 Team Sponsorship (4 shooters)
- 100 sporting or trap clay targets, admission to lunch presentation, and take home "swag bag"

Additional information, including registration form

SPONSORSHIPS

- Eagle Sponsor -- \$3,000
- Life Sponsor -- \$2,000
- Star Sponsor -- \$1,000
- Station sign Sponsor -- \$350



2026 SUMMER CAMP SESSIONS



Staff Week: June 14-20

Week 1: June 21-27

Week 2: July 5-11



www.alincolnscouting.org/outdooradventure



SHARE THE ADVENTURE BRING A FRIEND

If YOU bring a FRIEND to any camp, YOU only pay half and they get to come for FREE! Your Friend has to be there a minimum of one day of the event/camp, but is invited to attend the entire time. This is good for ANY EVENT or CAMP. Code can only be used 1 time per friend but can be used more than once for all events and camps. When registering yourself and your friend, use code "**FRIEND**" to receive your scholarship automatically. Your Friend cannot be currently registered in Scouting America.

**50% OFF FOR YOU AND
FREE EVENT/CAMP FOR
YOUR FRIEND!**



**NOW OPEN TO
IN AND OUT OF
COUNCIL UNITS**

