

Merit Badge Course Catalog

Choose one morning and one afternoon class, or a single all-day class. Complete any listed prerequisites before you arrive.

Class Schedule

Session 1 Morning, 9:00 – 11:50 AM

Session 2 Afternoon, 1:00 – 3:50 PM

All Day 9:00 AM – 3:50 PM

American Business

MBD210 · 2019 requirements

Session 1

Learn how businesses are started, financed, and run, from basic economics to the practical side of operating a company.

Chess

MBD103 · 2026 requirements

Session 1

Session 2

Explore the history, rules, and strategy of one of the world's oldest and most popular board games.

Class size

20 Scouts

What to bring

A chess set, if you have one.

Citizenship in the Community

MBD131

Session 1

Session 2

Discover how your local community is organized and governed, and how you can serve it.

Class size

16 Scouts

Prerequisites

Requirements 2a, 2b, 3a, 4, 7, and 8.

Citizenship in the Nation

MBD104

Session 1

Session 2

Learn about the founding documents, government, and responsibilities of being an active citizen of the United States.

Class size

16 Scouts

Prerequisites

Requirements 2, 3, and 6.

Citizenship in the World

MBD105

Session 1

Session 2

See how nations connect through government, trade, and international organizations — and your place as a global citizen.

Class size

16 Scouts

Prerequisites

Requirements 3, 4b, 4c, and 7.

Communication

MBD214 · 2014 requirements

Session 1

Session 2

Build speaking, listening, and writing skills, and learn how to share ideas clearly with any audience.

Class size

16 Scouts

Prerequisites

Requirement 2a or 2b, plus additional requirements.

Competitive Gaming

MBD213 · 2026 requirements

Session 1

Session 2

An introduction to esports and competitive gaming — teamwork, sportsmanship, healthy habits, and careers in a fast-growing industry.

Class size
16 Scouts

Emergency Preparedness

MBD188

Session 1

Session 2

Learn to prepare for, respond to, and recover from emergencies so you're ready to help when it matters.

Class size
15 Scouts

Prerequisites

Requirement 1 (earn the First Aid merit badge), plus additional requirements.

Engineering

MBD175 · 2024 requirements

Session 1

Session 2

Discover how engineers use science and technology to turn ideas into real-world solutions.

Class size
14 Scouts

Minimum rank
Scout

Prerequisites

Written work under the 2024 requirements.

Game Design

MBD125 · 2025 requirements

All Day

Analyze what makes games fun, then design, build, and playtest a game of your own.

Class size
16 Scouts

Journalism

MBD180

Session 1

Learn how reporters find, research, and tell stories across print, broadcast, and digital media.

Class size
16 Scouts

Prerequisites

Requirement 4.

Personal Management

MBD204 · 2019 requirements

Session 1

Session 2

Plan your future by setting goals, budgeting, managing time, and making smart financial decisions.

Class size
16 Scouts

Prerequisites

Requirements 1a, 1b, 1c, 2a, 2b, 2c, and 8a, plus additional requirements.

Scouting Heritage

MBD144

Session 2

Explore the history of Scouting in America, from its founders to the movement today.

Class size

16 Scouts

Signs, Signals, and Codes

MBD212 · 2026 requirements

Session 2

Learn the nonverbal ways people communicate, from Morse code and semaphore to trail signs and sign language.

Class size

16 Scouts

Wet Eagle Quest

MBD137 · Program

All Day

A great start for Scouts who are new to their troop, covering early rank skills including swimming.

Class size

16 Scouts

Prerequisites must be completed and signed off before class. Requirements are subject to the current Scouts BSA requirements.

Adult Volunteer Courses

Training for adult leaders and trainers across Hoosier Trails Council.

Fundamentals of Training: Science of Training

Replaces Trainer's EDGE

Staffing NYLT or Wood Badge? This is the course you need to take.

This national Scouting America course equips volunteers with the knowledge and practical skills to deliver effective, engaging training to other adult leaders. Rooted in adult learning theory, it explores how adults process and retain information differently than youth, giving participants a deeper understanding of facilitation techniques, course design, and learner engagement strategies.

Replacing the legacy Trainer's EDGE program, the updated course reflects current best practices in instructional design and keeps Hoosier Trails Council's training team aligned with the latest national standards. Any volunteer who delivers — or hopes to deliver — council or district training, including Wood Badge, NYLT, or position-specific courses, will find it an essential foundation for becoming a confident, credible, and impactful trainer.

Cub Pack Position Specific Training

Cubmaster · Committee Chair · Den Leader

Leading a Cub Scout Pack? This is the recommended course.

A foundational course that orients and equips the three key volunteer roles of the Cub Scout program — Cubmaster, Committee Chair, and Den Leader — to run a successful pack. Each role receives targeted instruction on its own responsibilities, while building a shared understanding of how the three work together as an integrated leadership team.

Topics include program planning, meeting structure, advancement, family engagement, and the resources available through Scouting America and Hoosier Trails Council. Completing Position Specific Training is one of the first and most impactful steps a new Cub Scout leader can take, helping them step into their role confident, informed, and connected to the volunteers supporting their pack.

How to Use Scoutbook

Informal fireside chat

Have questions about Scoutbook? Come and chat with Josh.

An informal, conversational session where experienced volunteer Josh guides adult leaders through Scoutbook, Scouting America's official platform for managing advancement, tracking attendance, and communicating with families. The relaxed fireside-chat format is a low-pressure setting to ask real questions, share common frustrations, and leave with practical skills you can use in your unit right away.

Whether you're brand new to Scoutbook or looking to unlock features you've never used, Josh's approachable style and hands-on experience offer something a manual or tutorial video can't. If you've ever felt unsure about recording advancement, messaging parents, or how Scoutbook connects to the broader Scouting platform, this session is time well spent.