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

Morning 9:00 – 11:50 AM · Afternoon 1:00 – 3:50 PM · All Day 9:00 AM – 3:50 PM

American Business

MBD210 · 2019 requirements

Morning

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

Chess

MBD103 · 2026 requirements

Morning · Afternoon

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

Morning · Afternoon

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

Morning · Afternoon

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

Class size
16 Scouts

Prerequisites
Requirements 5, 7, and 8.

Citizenship in the World

MBD105

Morning · Afternoon

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

Morning · Afternoon

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

Morning Afternoon

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

Class size
16 Scouts

Prerequisites
Requirements 2c, 2d, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3e, 4c, 4d, 5b, and 6.

Emergency Preparedness

MBD188

Morning Afternoon

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

Morning Afternoon

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

Morning

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

Morning Afternoon

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

Afternoon

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

Afternoon

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

Class size
16 Scouts

Stop the Bleed

Open to youth and adults

Morning

> **Youth or adult** Everyone is welcome in this course.

Learn to recognize and control life-threatening bleeding using hands-on techniques like direct pressure, wound packing, and tourniquet application.

Wet Eagle Quest

MBD137 · Program

Afternoon

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.

Stop the Bleed

Open to youth and adults · Morning only

> **Want to be ready in an emergency?** Adults are welcome alongside Scouts in this morning course, 9:00 – 11:50 AM.

The Stop the Bleed course trains participants to recognize and control life-threatening bleeding using hands-on techniques like direct pressure, wound packing, and tourniquet application.

Uncontrolled bleeding can become fatal in minutes, often before professional help arrives. These skills are valuable for any leader who takes Scouts camping, hiking, or on the water, and for anyone who wants to be prepared to help at home, at work, or in the community.