



2026 Merit Badge University

February 28th and March 21st - Westwood High School

Merit Badge Pre-Class Requirements as of 2/4/2026

The following pages contain the pre-class requirements for this year's Merit Badge University classes. Note: In some cases, counselors did not provide any requirements. All workbooks can be found at: <http://usscouts.org/mb/worksheets/list.asp> - **PLEASE NOTE** that there were numerous updates to merit badge requirements as of January 2026 and the worksheets **HAVE NOT BEEN UPDATED** to reflect these. Check to ensure the worksheet matches the new requirements if used.

The merit badge latest requirements as well as the digital pamphlets can be downloaded here: <https://www.scouting.org/skills/merit-badges/all/> (pamphlet downloads are on the bottom of each merit badge requirements). **BRING A COPY OF THE PAMPHLET WITH YOU!**

Merit Badge	Prerequisites
American Heritage	No prerequisites
Archaeology	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Item 7 – Complete sections (a), (b) and (c). It will be discussed in class. Item 8 – Complete section. It will be discussed in class. Item 9 – Complete section. It will be discussed in class.
Art	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Item 4 - Bring a favorite object to class. It will be rendered in 4 different ways (pencil, charcoal, pastels, watercolor) Make sure it is not too detailed or complex as there is limited time in class to complete. Item 6 - with your parent's permission and your counselor's approval, visit a museum, art exhibit, art gallery, artists' co-op, or artist's workshop. Find out about the art displayed or created there. Complete prior to 03/21/26.
Artificial Intelligence	<p>Complete the following requirements prior to 02/28/26. They will be discussed during the classroom session.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Item 1, Key Concepts: Define the following terms and we will discuss during the first session: artificial intelligence (AI), artificial intelligence agents, automation, basic programming, bots, data, databases, digital workers, general AI, machine learning (ML), narrow AI, superintelligent AI, tasks, triggers, workflows, and variables. Item 2, AI Basics. List the following and we will discuss in the first session: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Identify ten examples of how AI is currently used in everyday life. Identify five examples of how AI is currently used in the workplace. Identify five examples of how AI can be used at school or in support of your education. <p>Also, on the Scouting.org website is an AI Chatbot named Scoutly. Please be familiar with how Scoutly works, as it will be vital in completing the rest of the Merit Badge. You may want to bring a laptop or tablet to the class. It is not required but may be helpful.</p>
Aviation	Prerequisites to be provided prior to MBU.

Merit Badge	Prerequisites
Chess	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Item 1 – Be prepared to discuss with your counselor the history of the game of chess. Item 2 - Be prepared to discuss with your merit badge counselor the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Explain why it is considered a game of planning and strategy. The benefits of playing chess, including developing critical thinking skills, concentration skills, and decision-making skills, and how these skills can help you in other areas of your life. Sportsmanship and chess etiquette
Cit in the Community	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Item 2(a) - Using an electronic mapping tool or paper map, locate and pinpoint the following services and landmarks in your community. Determine and record the distances from your home including driving time AND either walking or biking time. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Chief government buildings such as your city hall, county courthouse, and public works/services facilities Fire station, police station, and hospital nearest your home Parks, playgrounds, recreation areas, and trails Historical or other interesting points of interest Item 3(a) - Attend an in-person meeting of your city, town, or county council or school board, local court session; OR another state or local governmental meeting approved in advance by your counselor. NOTE: THIS CANNOT BE A VIDEO BASED MEETING. If you attend the meeting, have someone from the meeting simply sign a copy of the meeting's agenda (or other note) to indicate you attended. 3(b) - Choose one of the issues discussed at the meeting where a difference of opinions was expressed and explain to your counselor why you agree with one opinion more than you do another one. Item 4. Choose an issue that is important to the citizens of your community; then do the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Find out which branch of local government is responsible for this issue. Item 5 – Identify a movie to watch in order to obtain approval to watch. Item 7 - Identify three charitable organizations outside of Scouting that interest you and bring people in your community together to work for the good of your community.
Cit in the Nation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Item 5 - Watch the national evening news for five days in a row or read the main stories in a national media organization (e.g., a newspaper or news website) for five days in a row. Choose one issue and explain how it affects you, your family, and community. This will be discussed in class. Item 6 – Choose your speech (a – f) for approval on 02/28/26. Item 7 - Complete requirement 7 prior to 02/21/26.
Cit in the Society	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Item 1 - Before beginning work on other requirements for this merit badge: a. Research the following terms and then explain to your merit badge counselor how you feel they relate to the Scout Oath and Scout Law: Identities Diversity Equity Equality Inclusion Discrimination Ethical Leadership Upstander. Item 7 - Identify and interview an individual in your community, school, and/or scouting who has had a significant positive impact in promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion. If you feel your community, school, or local Scouting group does not have such an individual, then research a historical figure who meets these criteria and discuss that person with your counselor. a. Discover what inspired the individual, learn about the challenges they faced and share what you feel attributed to their success. b. Discuss with your counselor what you learned and how you can apply it in your life. Item 8 - With the help of your parent or guardian, study an event that had a positive outcome on how society viewed a group of people and made them feel more welcome. Describe to your counselor the event and what you learned.
Cit in the World	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Items 1-4 complete before 02/28/26. Items 5-7 complete before 03/21/26.
Communications	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Item 7 - Come to class having completed ONE of the requirements for 7. Bring a hard copy or email a digital version to your counselor.

Merit Badge	Prerequisites
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Item 8 - Work with your Scoutmaster to complete this requirement. Upon completion, email your counselor with your scoutmaster CC'd. List 2-3 things you did to prepare for the event that made it successful, and 2-3 things you would do differently in the future to make it even better. Item 9. Please find out about three career opportunities in communication. Pick one, and find out the education, training, and experience required for the profession. Be prepared to discuss and explain why this profession may interest you. Any additional prerequisites will be emailed by your individual instructor.
Disability Awareness	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Item 1 – Bring sections (a) and (b) completed. It will be reviewed in the first class Item 2 – Visit and agency that works with people, mental or emotional, or educational disabilities. Collect and read information about the agency's activities. Learn about opportunities its members have for training, employment, and education. Discuss what you have learned with your counselor. (Not done in class but will discuss your findings in class. To be done by second session) Item 4 - We will do Option A1 and Option B1 in class. Please choose ONE other option from the list. To be done by second session. Item 5 – Bring section completed. It will be reviewed in class. Item 6 – Bring section completed. It will be reviewed in class. Item 7 – Bring section completed. It will be reviewed in class.
Electricity	No prerequisites
Emergency Prep	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Item 1 - First Aid Merit Badge Earn the First Aid merit badge. Item 2 – Complete sections 2a, b, and c prior to 03/21/26. Item 3. Preventing Accidents and Emergencies. Do ONE the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Using a home safety checklist included in the Emergency Preparedness merit badge pamphlet or one approved by your counselor, inspect a home (or a similar building near where you live or at a camp) for safety hazards with the help of an adult. Present your completed checklist to and discuss your findings with your counselor. Develop emergency prevention plans for five family activities outside the home, as approved by your counselor. (Examples are taking a picnic to a park, seeing a movie, attending a worship service, an outing at a beach, traveling to visit a relative, or attending a ball game or concert.) Each plan should include an analysis of possible hazards, proposals to prevent, protect from, mitigate, respond to, and recover from emergencies, and the reasons for the actions that you propose.
Engineering	No prerequisites
Entrepreneurship	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Item 5 - Students will complete their business plan between the two sessions and present the plan during the second session.
Family Life	No prerequisites
First Aid	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Item 5 - Prepare a first-aid kit for your home. Bring the kit to your first class.
Health Care Professions	No prerequisites
Mammal Studies	No prerequisites
Painting	No prerequisites
Personal Fitness	No prerequisites – See attached spreadsheet to track your required time.
Personal Fitness Cont.	https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/Merit_Badge_RegandRes/Requirement%20Resources/Personal%20Fitness/measures_of_physical_fitness%20%28fillable%29.pdf?_gl=1*1lgj5mo*_ga*MTc4NDE1MDAwMC4xNzYyNzM0Mzk3*_ga_20G0JHESG4*cze3NzAyMTc2NzUkbzEyJGcxJHQxNzcwMjE3ODI3JGo2MCRsMCRoMA..*_gcl_a

Merit Badge	Prerequisites
	u*MTlwMjMyMjEzMi4xNzYyNzM0Mzk3& ga=2.243652357.107072422.1770213202-1784150000.1762734397 https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/Merit_Badge_RegandRes/Requirement%20Resources/Personal%20Fitness/3-Day%20Food%20and%20Drink%20Log%20%28fillable%29.pdf
Personal Management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Come to class with a chrome book or smart phone. It will be needed in the class. 2. Items 9 and 10 – Complete prior to 02/28. They will be collected in the first class. 3. Instructors may request to be connected to them on Scout Book as your merit badge counselor so that the merit badge can continue after MBU. There is a 13-week requirement that you will not be able to finish before MBU ends.
Programming	<p>in order to complete the merit badge within the MBU timeframe you'll need to complete these items before the first class. Scouts who have not completed the re-work will receive a partial completion.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Read the merit badge pamphlet. NOTE: The requirements were updated in 2026. 2. With your parent/guardian's permission, view the "Personal Safety Awareness Digital Safety" video linked on the requirements page. 3. Research these topics, print out some references, and be prepared to discuss all of them (and show your work) in the first class: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. History of programming and how programming languages have evolved over time. b. Create a list of 5 programming languages that are in use today, and in what scenarios or industries each language is used. c. Describe three different devices you use each day that have software in them (are programmed). 4. Requirement #5 involves some work and will require your counselor's approval for three different programming projects. If you are prepared, you will be able to get the necessary approvals during the first class. Read requirement 5 carefully. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Select the three programming languages that you will use for your project and be ready to discuss them at the first class. This page is very helpful: https://scoutlife.org/merit-badges/programming-merit-badge/ 5. If you're having any problems and/or questions, reach out to your counselor before the first class.
Public Speaking	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prepare a three- to five-minute introduction of yourself and be ready to present it.
Space Exploration	Prerequisites to be provided prior to MBU.
Sustainability	No prerequisites
Weather	No prerequisites