

# Updated Cole Canoe Base 2026 Prerequisite List

| Merit Badge/<br>Activity                             | Requirements to be fulfilled prior to arrival at camp.  | Requirements updated                           | Pre-reqs updated                                      |
|--|---|--|---|
| <b>American Red Cross Standard CPR (Adults Only)</b> | None. The cost for course is \$35.00. Sign up at the Sunday Night Program Expo near the Dumas Pavilion.<br><i>*Price subject to change by the American Red Cross</i>  | N/A  | N/A   |
| <b>Animation</b>                                     | 4a (animation studio tour) is recommended, but can be completed virtually at camp.  | 2015   | 1/2026  |
| <b>Archery</b>                                       | None. This badge is not recommended for first year scouts. Scouts should be familiar with local and State laws regarding Archery equipment, ownership, and usage.   | 2025   | 12/2014   |
| <b>Art</b>   | 6 (visit a museum, art exhibit, art gallery, artists' co-op, or artist's workshop).   | 2014   | 12/2014   |
| <b>Astronomy</b>                                     | It is recommended that scouts complete 4c (Big Dipper or Cassiopeia), 5b (visible planets), 5d (observe a planet), 6b (moon phases), and one of the options for 8 (observation activities), prior to arrival due to potentially unfavorable weather for observations.   | 2025   | 1/2025  |
| <b>ATV Program</b>                                   | Participants must be 14 years old by the first day of the course and have an ATV Hold-Harmless form ( <a href="https://www.scoutingevent.com/Download/27272137/OR/CCB_ATV_Hold_Harmless.pdf">scoutingevent.com/Download/27272137/OR/CCB_ATV_Hold_Harmless.pdf</a> ) signed by a parent or guardian. Everyone must also complete the E-Course offered by the ATV Safety Institute to ride an ATV. Visit <a href="https://atvsafety.org/atv-ecourse/">atvsafety.org/atv-ecourse/</a> and select "Register Here" under the ATV E-Course description. <b>Remember to bring your E-Course Certificate Number with you to camp!</b><br>ATV Program fees are listed on the Merit Badge schedule and are charged through the reservation system.<br>Participants should have a long sleeve shirt, long pants, and boots that cover the ankle. A bandana is recommended. Gloves, helmets and goggles will be provided. | <a href="#">Link to ATV Hold-Harmless Form</a> | <a href="#">Link to ATV Safety Institute E-Course</a> |
| <b>Automotive Maintenance</b>                        | If living outside the State of Michigan, 1g (State's emissions and safety inspection). For safety around shop equipment, scouts should be at least 14 years old.  | 2026   | 1/2024  |
| <b>Bird Study</b>                                    | 5 (observe and identify 20 birds). It is recommended that scouts complete 2 (bird sketches), 6 (bird characteristics), and 7 (bird songs).  | 2026   | 1/2024  |
| <b>Complete Angler Recognition</b>                   | Requirements: Earn the three Fishing related merit badges - Fishing, Fly Fishing, and Fish & Wildlife Management.<br>You must also successfully complete one or more of the following projects:<br>1. Teach a Fishing or Fly Fishing merit badge skill to your troop, or crew as part of a unit program activity.<br>2. Help instruct Cub Scouts on fishing skills or fishery management as part of a Cub Scout meeting or outing.<br>3. Participate in a local fishing derby or tournament, either a Scouting or Community event.<br>4. Complete a conservation project that will benefit a local fishery.   | 2021   | 1/2023  |
| <b>SA Paddle Craft Safety</b>                        | Participants <b>must</b> have passed the SA Swimmer Test, be 15 years of age or older, and physically fit. Participants must also have experience with basic water rescue techniques.   | 2012   | 12/2014   |
| <b>SA Swimming and Water Rescue</b>                  | Participants <b>must</b> have passed the SA Swimmer Test, be 15 years of age or older, and physically fit. Participants must also be able to recover a 10-pound weight from eight feet of water.  | 2012   | 12/2014   |

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| <b>World Conservation Award</b>                  | Scouts BSA members can earn this award by earning the following merit badges:<br>1. Environmental Science OR Sustainability merit badge<br>2. Soil and Water Conservation OR Fish and Wildlife Management merit badge<br>3. Citizenship in the World merit badge<br>AND participate in a conservation project as part of an approved Scouting program totaling at least three hours that addresses a conservation need common to more than one country | 2019                 | 1/2023           |
| <b>Camping (Eagle Req.)</b>                      | 4 (Patrol campout), 5e (pack inspection), 7 (pack for campout), 8c (camp menu), 8d (cook menu), 9a (camp 20 days and 20 nights), and 9b (camping activities).  | 2024                 | 2/2019           |
| <b>Canoeing</b>                                  | 2 (SA Swimmer test) will be conducted at the start of camp. Scouts should be First Class Rank and at least 13 years old due to the physical demands of this badge.   | 2026                 | 1/2023           |
| <b>Chess</b>                                     | It is suggested that scouts bring a chess set. If this is not possible, a limited amount of equipment is available at camp.  | 2026                 | 1/2023           |
| <b>Citizenship in the Community (Eagle Req.)</b> | 2 (mapping landmarks), 3 (meeting), 4 (community issue), and 7 (research and volunteer). Scouts are also expected to begin preparations for requirement 8 (presentation) prior to coming to camp.  | 2026                 | 1/2025           |
| <b>Citizenship in the Nation (Eagle Req.)</b>    | 5 (national news for 5 days); Do Two: 7a (visit landmark), 7b (visit state capitol), 7c (visit federal facility), 7d (national monument).<br>It is suggested scouts bring a speech to discuss for 6. If scouts have already written the letter for requirement 8 please bring any response from Congress to camp.  | 2026                 | 3/2022           |
| <b>Citizenship in the World (Eagle Req.)</b>     | It is recommended that scouts research current world events and visit the websites for requirements 3 and 7 to be prepared for a group discussion.   | 2026                 | 1/2026           |
| <b>Climbing</b>                                  | None. Scouts need appropriate clothing and footwear (closed-toed shoes). For safety, participants should be at least First Class Rank and fit to belay.  | 2025                 | 12/2014          |
| <b>Communication (Eagle Req.)</b>                | 5 (public meeting). Requirements 3, 6, & 8 (5-minute speech, teach a skill, & MC) can be completed in the unit's campsite with adult leadership approval and signature. The interview for requirement 4 can be completed in the campsite.  | 2019                 | 1/2026           |
| <b>Cooking (Eagle Req.)</b>                      | 2c (track your daily activity and caloric needs for 5 days), 4 (3 day menu, shop, cook), 5 (2 day camping menu for patrol), and 6 (hiking menu).<br>From the Advancement Team: Cooking requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class do not count toward Cooking Merit Badge Requirements. You must not repeat any menus for meals actually prepared or cooked in requirements 4, 5, and 6.   | 2025                 | 1/2023           |
| <b>Crime Prevention</b>                          | 4b - 4c (home security survey and lessons) and 10 (interview).<br>Research for requirement 3 is strongly recommended.<br>9 AM Crime Prevention and Fingerprinting are instructed at the same time on different days. Scouts are not required to enroll in both badges.   | 2025                 | 1/2025           |
| <b>Electricity</b>                               | 2 (home safety inspection), 6d (reset circuits in your home), and 7 (electrical floor plan). Recommended for second year scouts.   | 2025                 | 1/2025           |

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| <b>Emergency Preparedness (Eagle Req.)</b>              | 1b (10 emergency situations for family meeting), 8b (troop mobilization plan), and 9 (First Aid Merit Badge).  | 2026  | 1/2026           |
| <b>Environmental Science (Eagle Req.)</b>               | 7c (household hazardous waste). Scouts are encouraged to work on requirement 6 prior to camp.  | 2025  | 1/2025           |
| <b>Fingerprinting</b>                                   | None. Fingerprinting is a one session merit badge, and is offered at 9 AM Monday morning, or at 10 AM and 11 AM Friday morning. 9 AM Crime Prevention and Fingerprinting are instructed at the same time on different days. Scout are not required to enroll in both badges.   | 2025  | 1/2024           |
| <b>Fire Safety</b>                                      | 5e (smoke and CO alarms in your home) and 5g (home escape plan and drill).   | 2025  | 1/2025           |
| <b>First Aid (Eagle Req.)</b>                           | 2b (assemble a first aid kit). Recommended for second year scouts.   | 2025  | 1/2025           |
| <b>First Class Emphasis / First Year Camper Program</b> | None. This class is intended to teach young scouts some of the skills required for rank advancement through First Class. Camp staff will not sign off requirements in a scout's handbook, but documentation of the skills covered will be provided. It is at the discretion of the unit leader to sign off requirements. This course is instructed in two daily two-hour blocks. Scouts should sign up and attend both sessions (total 4 hours per day) to cover the maximum available requirements. The 2026 FCE Program Schedule is available at <a href="https://scoutingevent.com/Download/272180722/OR/CCB_First_Class_Emphasis_First_Year_Camper_Program.pdf">scoutingevent.com/Download/272180722/OR/CCB_First_Class_Emphasis_First_Year_Camper_Program.pdf</a> | <a href="#">Link to 2026 FCE Schedule of Requirements</a> | 5/2026           |
| <b>Fish and Wildlife Management</b>                     | 5 (observations) and 7 (fish age, census, stomach contents, or aquarium). Recommended for second year scouts.  | 2025  | 1/2025           |
| <b>Fishing</b>  | Scouts are encouraged to attempt requirements 9 and 10 prior to camp. Non-Michigan residents should obtain their State's game fishing regulations. It is recommended that scouts bring fishing gear to camp. If this is not possible, a limited amount of camp equipment is available.   | 2026  | 1/2025           |
| <b>Fly-Fishing</b>                                      | Recommended for second year scouts. Scouts are encouraged to attempt requirements 10 and 11 prior to camp. Non-Michigan residents should obtain their State's game fishing regulations. It is suggested that scouts have some casting experience and bring fishing gear to camp. If this is not possible, a limited amount of camp equipment is available.   | 2026  | 1/2025           |
| <b>Game Design</b>                                      | 8 (meet with a game development professional). It is suggested that scouts complete 5a (design), 6 (prototype), and 7a (instruction sheet) prior to arrival, but this can be completed at camp.  | 2023  | 1/2023           |
| <b>Geocaching</b>                                       | 7 (local caches), 8a (cache to eagle) OR 8b (travel bug) OR 8c (public geocache) OR 8d (CITO), and 9 (geohunt). It is suggested that scouts bring a GPS. If this is not possible, a limited amount of equipment is available.  | 2019  | 12/2014          |
| <b>Geology</b>  | None. Recommended for first year scouts.   | 2026  | 1/2025           |
| <b>Graphic Arts</b>                                     | 6 (visit options).   | 2026  | 12/2014          |
| <b>Kayaking</b>   | 2 (SA Swimmer Test, can be completed at camp).   | 2026  | 12/2014          |

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| <b>Leatherwork</b>                      | 5 (commercial tanning process, tan animal skin, recondition, or visit leather related business). If none of these options have been done, scout may complete 5c (reconditioning) at camp. This badge is not recommended for first year scouts due to skill level.  | 2017   | 1/2025           |
| <b>Lifesaving (Eagle Req.)</b>          | 2a (earn the Swimming merit badge). Scouts will need to pass the 400 yard lifesaving pre-test administered by the camp instructor. Young scouts often find that this badge is more physically demanding than they anticipate.  | 2026   | 1/2021           |
| <b>Mammal Study</b>                     | None. It is suggested scouts research for requirements 3c (nongame mammal), unless they choose to do 3a at camp OR 3b prior to camp. Recommended for first year scouts.  | 2026   | 3/2015           |
| <b>Metalwork</b>                        | None. For safety, scouts must be at least 14 years old and have close-fitting long sleeve shirt and long pants made of natural fibers. Leather work boots are also required (steel toe preferred).   | 2025   | 1/2025           |
| <b>Motorboating (Independent Study)</b> | 2a (SA Swimmer Test, which can be completed at Aquatics) and for requirement 4b complete the online DNR Boating Safety course (cost of \$29.50, more information at <a href="http://michigan.gov/dnr/things-to-do/boating/safety-certificate">michigan.gov/dnr/things-to-do/boating/safety-certificate</a> )<br><b>Participants must be at least 12 years old to operate the motorboat. Not recommended for first year scouts.</b> This merit badge may include a supervised trip out of camp. It is recommended that scouts have an approved form of CPR Training prior to arrival. | <a href="#">Link to Michigan Online Boating Safety course info</a> | 5/2026           |
| <b>Moviemaking</b>                      | None. It is suggested scouts bring their own camera. If this is not possible, a limited amount of camp equipment may be available.   | 2026   | 12/2014          |
| <b>Music</b>                            | 3a (attend a concert) OR 3b (interview a family member) OR 3c (member of band, choir, or music group for 6 months). Scouts must do two of the four (3a-d). 3d can be completed at camp. If a scout does not complete 4b (compose music) the scout must complete 4a (teach 3 songs) OR 4c (make an instrument).   | 2026   | 3/2023           |
| <b>Oceanography</b>                     | 8 is recommended prior to camp. Recommended for second or third year scouts.   | 2026   | 1/2025           |
| <b>Painting</b>                         | None.  | 2026   | 1/2026           |
| <b>Personal Fitness (Eagle Req.)</b>    | 4, 5, & 6 (measures of physical fitness and planning), and 7 (complete 12 week fitness program).   | 2026   | 1/2026           |
| <b>Personal Management (Eagle Req.)</b> | 1 (large family purchase), 2 (budget with 13 week record of income and expenses), 8 (to do list/ schedule for 7 days). It is suggested scouts prepare for 9 (project) prior to camp. This badge is recommended for second or third year scouts.  | 2019   | 2/2019           |
| <b>Photography</b>                      | 1b (Digital Safety video). It is suggested scouts bring their own camera and begin working on 7 (visual story or topic). If scouts cannot provide their own camera, a limited amount of camp equipment may be available. Scouts can view the Digital Safety video online at <a href="http://scouting.org/training/youth/scouts-bsa">scouting.org/training/youth/scouts-bsa</a>   | 2024   | 1/2025           |
| <b>Reptile and Amphibian Study</b>      | 8 (maintain or observe a reptile or amphibian).  | 2025   | 1/2025           |
| <b>Rifle Shooting</b>                   | None.  | 2025   | 1/2025           |
| <b>River Ranger Program</b>             | Participants must be 16 years old by the first day of camp and pass the SA Swimmer Test. This is a course that teaches scouts how to plan and lead river treks. Trek Safely, as it relates to open water, as well as some open water rescue techniques are covered in this course.   | N/A  | 2/2019           |

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| <b>Sculpture</b>                        | Do two of the following: 2a (head), 2b (mold), or 2c (art exhibit).  | 2026                 | 1/2026           |
| <b>Search and Rescue</b>                | Requirement 7 occurs at camp outside of scheduled merit badge time. First Aid merit badge is highly recommended. This badge is not recommended for first year scouts.  | 2026                 | 1/2026           |
| <b>Shotgun Shooting</b>                 | First-Year scouts are discouraged from taking this badge due to the difficulty of handling and aiming shotguns. All scouts are welcome at Open Shoot sessions to determine their comfort level with shotguns. Please check the Weekly Schedule of Events for Shotgun Open Shoot times. | 2025                 | 1/2026           |
| <b>Small-Boat Sailing</b>               | 2 (SA Swimmer Test). This is a two-hours per day badge. Scouts must be at least 12 years old.  | 2026                 | 2/2021           |
| <b>Space Exploration</b>                | Please bring rockets and engines for two launches to complete requirement 3, ensuring they are stored safely with an adult.  | 2026                 | 3/2022           |
| <b>Swimming (Eagle Req.)</b>            | 2 (SA Swimmer Test) and 3 (150 yard swim) need to be completed at camp. Young scouts often find that this badge is more physically demanding than they anticipate.   | 2026                 | 3/2015           |
| <b>Textile</b>                          | None.  | 2004                 | 1/2025           |
| <b>Water Sports (Independent Study)</b> | 3 (SA Swimmer test). Scouts should be at least 14 years old and be prepared to go on Motorboating off-site trip.   | 2026                 | 1/2025           |
| <b>Welding</b>                          | None. Scouts must be at least 14 and have close-fitting long sleeve shirt and long pants made of natural fibers. Leather work boots are also required (steel toe preferred). Recommended for second or third year scouts.  | 2012                 | 12/2014          |
| <b>Wilderness Survival</b>              | 4 (first aid kit). Scouts must be 14 years old or older. This badge requires an on-site low impact overnight trip. Scouts should come to camp equipped with the supplies necessary to complete requirement 5 (spend a night in your improvised natural shelter).                       | 2026                 | 1/2026           |
| <b>Wood Carving</b>                     | 2a (Totin' Chip). This badge is not recommended for first year scouts due to skill level required.   | 2017                 | 12/2014          |