



STEMB@ECU
November 14th, 2026



Welcome to the comprehensive guide for East Carolina University's STEM Merit Badge day - **STEMB@ECU!**

This special event brings the excitement of **Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math** straight to a premier college campus. Scouts will have the unique opportunity to dive into hands-on learning, explore cutting-edge university labs, and earn exciting STEM-related merit badges (MBs) **taught directly by ECU faculty and staff** - experts in their respective fields! Beyond the coursework, participants will get a genuine *taste* of college life by exploring ECU's vibrant campus, touring its facilities, and interacting and engaging with ECU faculty, staff, and students. Whether you are a Scout taking your first steps toward a STEM career or a leader helping your troop navigate the day, this guide provides everything you need to know for an unforgettable educational experience in **Pirate Nation**.

ARGH you ready for an adventure?

We hope that you and your Scouts will enjoy the day, and we look forward to seeing you on campus.

Yours In Scouting,

Gaëlle Deshayes, PhD & Adam Offenbacher, PhD

Contact Information

Contacts	Email
Gaëlle Deshayes & Adam Offenbacher	stembecu@gmail.com

General information

Date

November 14th, 2026

This event is split into 2 options:

Option 1: from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM. This option will offer your Scout the possibility to earn up to 2 merit badges

Option 2: from 8:00 AM to **9:00 PM**. With additional evening MB activities, this option will offer your Scout the possibility to earn up to 3 merit badges

For both options, check-in starts at 8:00 AM

Location

East Carolina University

501 E 10th St, Greenville, NC 27858

For dropping off scouts, we recommend the circle on Founders Dr. near the Graham building: [drop-off](#)

For registered adults staying during the event, parking is available [here](#) at the ECU student center (\$2/hour).

- **Hourly & Daily Visitors:** You must pay for your parking upon arrival. You can easily start and manage your session using the [ParkMobile App \(website\)](#), or text "PARK" to 77223), [AMP Park \(IOS/Android\)](#), or [AIMS Mobile Pay](#). Both apps will send an alert to your phone before your session expires.
No Smartphone? Call the ParkMobile toll-free automated line at **1-877-727-5301** to start your session.

Cost

Option 1- \$25.00 per Scout helps cover the cost of STEMB@ECU, lunch, snacks, an event patch, administrative and facility costs for the day. Additional patches cost \$5 if any remaining.

Some merit badge sessions may require extra fees; those fees will be listed during online registration and also in the prerequisite listing details.

Option 2 - \$35.00 per Scout if attending all day (including evening session and dinner included).

\$15.00 for adult leaders who are attending the event. This will cover their lunch.

Registration

Registration is available online through the East Carolina Council website on Black Pug

<https://scoutingevent.com/426-STEMB26>



Check-In

Check-in will take place in front of the Graham Building ([Drop-off](#)) at **8:00AM**. When checking in:

- Scouts MUST present completed [Health Form A&B](#)
- Scouts will receive a wristband and a packet with information for the day that includes the STEMB@ECU patch, maps, schedule and location.

Schedule

Below, schedules for day participants and **evening participants**

Day Participants (Options 1 and 2)	
8:00AM-8:30AM	Check-In/Graham building
8:30AM-8:45AM	Opening with Flag Ceremony and MB Counselors introduction
9:00AM-12:00PM	Morning Sessions
12:15PM-1:15PM	Lunch
1:30PM-4:30PM	Afternoon Sessions
4:45PM-5:45PM	Campus Tour
6:00PM	Pick-up/Graham Building

Evening Participants (Option 2 only)

5:45PM	Dinner
6:15PM-8:45PM	Evening Sessions
9:00PM	Pick-up/Graham building

Food/Drinks

Lunch

Lunch will be provided. Please indicate if you have any dietary restrictions when registering for this event.

Dinner - for evening participants (option 2 only)

Dinner will be provided for evening participants ONLY.

Participants Responsibilities

A Scout is Prepared

- Field (Class A) Uniform - Scouts MUST arrive in their Field Uniform (class B underneath)
- Long pants, closed-toed and heeled shoes, NO CROCS/sandals permitted
- Water bottle, Snacks
- Completed Health Forms A&B
- Day bag or backpack to hold the above items
- Pen/pencil
- Merit Badge prerequisites, documents, pictures, etc
- [All Merit Badges A-Z | Scouting America](#) for digital copies of Merit Badge Pamphlet - optional



As Scout is Obedient

We make no guarantees that a Scout will end STEMB@ECU with completed merit badge(s).

Scouts are expected to have done the following **in advance** of their MBC session:

- Read all MB requirements
- Completed any prerequisites listed in the table below; and filled out the appropriate section(s) of the [merit badge worksheet](#), if applicable, to contribute to in-session discussions. Scouts may be given only partial credit or not allowed to participate due to lack of preparation, depending on the MB class requirements.

Our goal is to have the Scouts work to the best of their ability to complete their merit badge. When guiding your Scout during the selection process, **consider the Scout's age and abilities**. Some badges require more Scouting experience and a higher level of maturity for success. Scouts are also expected to **actively participate** and engage in the MB course. Scouts may receive an incomplete at the discretion of the counselor for lack of participation and/or for behavior that disrupts the learning process.

A Scout is Courteous

- Cell phones and devices are **optional** for Scouts to bring. Unless approved by the merit badge counselor, Scouts may NOT use a device during a Merit Badge session.
- **Leave No Trace applies.** Neither STEMB@ECU Staff nor ECU Faculty/Staff or volunteers are your scouts' personal maids. **Scouts are expected to clean up after themselves.** Trash and recycling receptacles all over campus, please trash your trash.

A Scout is Kind

- Scouting **strictly prohibits all forms of bullying** - physical, emotional, or verbal. These acts violate the Scout Oath and Law. Should a Scout be caught acting in such a behavior, the parent(s) will be immediately contacted, and the Scout would be asked to leave the class and STEMB event. Scouts will also be reported to local Council Executives in accordance with Scouting America policy: [here](#)

Post-Event Information

Please give us a week to 10 days to coordinate with our merit badge counselors and to upload completion reports into Black Pug. This gives us time to verify results and check for accuracy of completion.

Merit Badge Sessions

Prerequisites may change; Full list will be online.

Merit Badge Pamphlets are freely available for download at: <https://www.scouting.org/skills/merit-badges/all/>

Merit Badge Worksheets are freely available for download at: <http://usscouts.org/mb/worksheets/list.asp>

Badge	AM 9AM-12PM	PM 1:30PM-4:30PM	Evening 6:15PM-8:45PM	Counselor	Pre-Requisites and Additional Notes
AI	6hrs			John Southworth, PhD	Laptop (Optional)
Astronomy		3hrs + 2.5hrs*		Mark Sprague, PhD	
Chemistry		3hrs		Adam Offenbacher, PhD Gaëlle Deshayes, PhD	
Cybersecurity	6hrs			Joseph Jeansonne	4(b), 4(e), 4(f), 6(a)
Digital Technology	3hrs			Ricky Castle, PhD	1 (digital safety video) – if not completed, you will not be able to participate
Fingerprinting		3hrs	2.5hrs	Daniel Culver	
Geology		3hrs		Eric Horsman, PhD	
Nuclear Science	3hrs			Nathan Carlson, PhD	Recommended to watch all videos provided with this MB
Plant Science	6hrs			Scott Cory, PhD	5 (grow a plant)
Scholarship			2.5hrs	Adam Offenbacher, PhD	1, 3
Veterinary Medicine	3hrs			Vittoria Capria, DVM	Recommended to watch all videos provided with this MB

*Scouts who opt out of the evening session of Astronomy will receive only a **partial** for this MB

John Southworth, PhD

Dr. Southworth is the Assistant Director for the Research Technology team of ITCS at ECU. Originally from Greensboro, Dr. Southworth came to ECU to obtain his bachelor's and master's degrees in computer networking and networking management and his doctorate (PhD) in Technology Management from Indiana State University, where his research focused on adoption of new technology, specifically in the area of computer networking. Dr. Southworth joined ITCS in 2010, where he's continued to work in support of learning technologies. He has also taught graduate-

level courses on networking, data analytics, and IT leadership, and experience with technology innovation in support of distance learning. Outside of work, when he's not spending time with his wife and cats or chauffeuring his three children around to their various extracurricular activities, he enjoys eating his favorite foods, cutting firewood as his home's primary heat source, working towards generating his own electricity, and salvaging old batteries.

Mark Sprague, PhD

Dr. Mark Sprague is an Associate Professor and Assistant Chair for Undergraduate Studies in the Department of Physics at ECU. in the Department of Physics at ECU. Dr. Sprague earned his Bachelor's degree in Physics from Rhodes College and his Master's degree and doctorate (PhD) in Physics from the University of Mississippi. He specializes in acoustics, waves, and computational modeling and researches animals that make sound underwater and the effects of underwater noise on animals. Dr. Sprague teaches physics at all levels and particularly enjoys teaching introductory physics for science and engineering majors. When not at work, Dr. Sprague enjoys camping, fishing, spending time at the ocean and gardening.

Adam Offenbacher, PhD

Dr. Offenbacher is an Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Chemistry at ECU. He obtained his Bachelor's degree in Biochemistry at Ohio Northern University, near where he grew up, and his doctorate (PhD) in Chemistry at Georgia Institute of Technology. Dr. Offenbacher was a postdoctoral fellow at the University of California Berkeley before joining the research faculty at ECU. His research interests lie at the interface of Chemistry, Biology, and Physics, in which his lab focuses on chemical reactions that are central to life and human health. When not at work or scouting, he enjoys cooking, riding his motorcycle, and spending time with family and friends.

Gaëlle Deshayes, PhD

Dr. Deshayes is the ECU IACUC Director. Originally from Belgium, she earned her bachelor's, master's, and doctorate degrees in Chemistry from the University of Mons. Her research focused on materials science, specifically polymer chemistry. She then moved to Atlanta, Georgia, as a postdoctoral fellow at the Georgia Institute of Technology. Later, she began her career in compliance at the University of California, Berkeley, in the Environment, Health & Safety department. She has worked at ECU for nine years. Outside of work and scouting, she loves to travel, hike, read, watch TV shows, and spend time with family and friends.

Joseph Jeansonne

Mr. Jeansonne is a Teaching Instructor in the Department of Technology Systems in the College of Engineering and Technology at ECU. He grew up in New Orleans, Louisiana and moved to North Carolina to attend college at East Carolina University. He started his career working as a Systems Administrator at East Carolina University in the William E. Laupus Medical Library for 10 years. He then served on the Faculty at Pitt Community College in Winterville, NC for 16 years. Mr. Jeansonne has been working in IT for the last 29 years and had been the Coordinator for the Cybersecurity program at Pitt Community College for over six years. He holds a Master's degree in Digital Communications and a Bachelor's

degree in Electronics from East Carolina University. When not at work, Mr. Jeansonne enjoys camping with his family and coaching Cyber capture-the-flag events. (<https://nationalcyberleague.org/competition>).

Ricky Castle, PhD

Dr. Castles is a Professor in the Department of Engineering and the Associate Dean for Student Affairs in the College of Engineering and Technology. He holds a Bachelor's, Master's, and doctorate (PhD) degrees in Computer Engineering and a second Master's degree in Industrial and Systems Engineering, all from Virginia Tech, and enjoys researching wireless sensor networks and best practices in engineering education. When not at work, Dr. Castles enjoys trivia games, serving as Cubmaster of Pack 9, and building Mark Rober build boxes with his son.

Daniel Culver

Mr. Culver is a Sr. Teaching Instructor and Forensic Science Coordinator in the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminology at ECU. He has a Master's degree in Criminal Justice and over 18 years of law enforcement experience and over 35 years in the fire service. When not at work, Mr. Culver enjoys time with his fiancé and working in the yard and volunteering at his local volunteer fire department.

Eric Horsman, PhD

Dr. Horsman is an Associate Professor in the Department of Earth, Environment, and Planning at ECU. His research focuses on understanding how volcanic eruptions are driven by changes to subsurface magma plumbing systems due to repeated magma injections. Dr. Horsman obtained a Bachelor's degree in Geology from Rice University. He received a Master's degree and doctorate (Ph.D.) in Geology from the University of Wisconsin - Madison and was a postdoctoral scholar at the University of California - Berkeley. He has worked professionally as a geologist at environmental / engineering consulting firms and at the U.S. Geological Survey. When not at work, Dr. Horsman enjoys distance running, reading fiction, and backpacking.

Nathan Carlson, PhD

Dr. Nathan Carlson is the Radiation Safety Officer at East Carolina University, where he oversees the university's radiation and laser safety programs. He is a Certified Health Physicist (CHP) and earned his Bachelor's degree in Physics and doctorate (PhD) in Biomedical Physics from ECU. In addition to his work at ECU, Dr. Carlson teaches college physics and enjoys helping students understand how physics applies to the world around them, especially radiation, nuclear science, and other things you normally can't see! When he's not working or teaching, Dr. Carlson enjoys spending time with his wife and three kids, making music, and serving as a worship leader at his local church. Fun fact: his job sometimes involves using instruments that can detect individual radioactive particles!

Scott Cory, PhD

Dr. Cory is a Teaching Assistant Professor in the Department of Biology at ECU. He's a lifelong-long resident of North Carolina, and earned his Bachelor's of Science degree in Biology at UNC Chapel Hill, Master's in Biology at Appalachian State University, and doctorate (PhD) in Biology at Wake Forest University. He is interested in plant responses to environmental stressors, and he teaches courses such as Field Botany, Plant Biology, and Vegetation Sampling and Analysis. When not at work, Dr. Cory enjoys fly fishing, fly tying, golfing, and camping with friends and family.

Vittoria Capria, DVM, MS, DACLAM

Dr. Capria is the Attending Veterinarian and Interim Chair of the Department of Comparative Medicine in the Brody School of Medicine at ECU. She has a Bachelor's degree in Biology from University of Virginia, Master's degree in Animal Policy from Tufts, doctorate (DVM) from Cornell, and is board-certified in laboratory animal medicine. She loves to teach and train those new to the field of animal research. Her research interests include anything focused on improving animal welfare. When not at work, Dr. Capria enjoys exploring the Greenville and surrounding areas with her husband and 2-year-old daughter.