MERIT BADGE CHALLENGE 2027

Event Guide

Dan Beard Council MBC Site Coordinators
10/20/2026



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Welcome to Merit Badge Challenge!

We offer this information to help with questions you may have about Merit Badge Challenge (MBC). There is a lot of information, so please read this brochure completely. Feel free to contact us if you have additional questions after you have read this and the website in their entirety. (See site contact information at the end of this guide.)

The goal of MBC is to "connect Scouts and merit badge counselors of multiple merit badges."

The **completion** of merit badges will depend on the completion of requirements, whether it be all in class, by completing requirements identified as prework or not being covered in class, or through other means deemed appropriate by the counselor. Attendance at MBC does **NOT** guarantee completion of a merit badge.

If a Scout completes some of the requirements, but not all of them, the counselor can acknowledge those completed requirements on the MBC completion record report provided by the Black Pug registration system. This report will be made available to the registration contact (the person that created the registration) within 30 days of the last MBC session. If the report indicates the Scout hasn't finished all of the requirements (typically referred to as a "partial"), he/she can complete the MB on their own after MBC, either with the MBC Counselor or another registered counselor. MBC counselors are usually willing to make arrangements with a Scout if they choose to finish their MB outside of MBC. However, the Scouts need to communicate that to the counselor(s) and coordinate the arrangements. This is why it is important that the Scout get the counselor's contact information on the first day of class and keep it handy. Each counselor will provide contact information to the class during MBC sessions. Again, it is up to the Scout to make use of it.

If any questions arise when your Scout receives the completion record report after MBC concerning what requirements are shown as complete, please contact that counselor as soon as possible, as they will best know the status of completion. In the rare case that a counselor's response (or lack of response) is unsatisfactory, please contact the Site Coordinator for your Challenge to get the issue resolved (see contact information at the end of this guide). Keep in mind that the longer you wait to communicate that there is a problem, the harder it will be to resolve it.

NOTE: When Scouts or counselors use email, text or phone as a means of contact, they must also CC a parent or adult leader to avoid one-on-one contact between adults and youth, which is prohibited by Scouting America's Safeguarding Youth guidelines.

To help your Scout's success, obtaining a copy of the merit badge pamphlet or online digital resource guide is highly desirable. The MB requirements and most of the information needed to complete them are contained in the material in the pamphlet. Also, workbooks are available which can help your Scout keep track of requirements that are completed. Be aware that counselors may email you with prework, forms, or information specific to the merit badge. The registering adult should be sure to check their email and pass this information on to the registered Scout.

Please be aware that if less than 5 scouts register for a specific Merit Badge, that Merit Badge may be cancelled. As soon as that decision is made, the participant and the registration contact (the person that

created the registration) will be notified via email provided at registration so your Scout can choose another Merit Badge. Decisions are usually made soon after registration closes.

MBC serves hundreds of Scouts and there are many volunteer opportunities. Each site is looking for volunteers at various levels of MBC. You can volunteer to be a counselor, an assistant counselor or second adult in the classroom (we maintain 2-deep leadership) or help staff the registration table or event security. If you have time on any of the Challenge dates or all of them, let the Site Coordinators know as soon as possible and they will facilitate an assignment for you. It takes a lot of volunteers to continue to provide this opportunity to our Scouts and it is a great help to the Site Coordinators when you commit early.

Expectations During Merit Badge Challenge

Scouts are either in the classroom or the large meeting room, they should not be wandering the halls. Scout's behavior should be dictated by Scout Oath and Law; show respect for our venues and leave them cleaner than you arrived; take everything you brought with you.

Some counselors will communicate via email with the Scouts before and/or during this event, make sure that the email, NO REPLY@247SCOUTING.COM is on your safe sender list for your email provider to ensure that you receive these emails. All communications, including responses from the Scouts, should conform with the Safeguarding Youth guidelines. This means that Scouts need to include a second adult on all responses to their counselors.

Pre-work/Prerequisites/Requirements Not Covered

Some merit badges have requirements that cannot be completed during a Merit Badge Challenge session. For example, both Communication and Citizenship in the Community merit badges have a requirement that includes attending a public meeting. This kind of requirement cannot be completed during one of the sessions of Merit Badge Challenge. A Scout has several options for this type of requirement:

- Complete the requirement before the sessions of Merit Badge Challenge start and bring evidence that the requirement was completed to the first Merit Badge Challenge session for the counselor's review.
- Complete the requirement during Merit Badge Challenge and bring the evidence that it was completed to the next Merit Badge Challenge session for the counselor's review.
- Complete the requirement after Merit Badge Challenge ends and work with either the Merit Badge Challenge counselor or another merit badge counselor in the Council.
- ** In situations in which the Counselor's advance permission is required, these requirements must not be completed before the session starts.

For Merit Badge Challenge, the merit badge counselor for each badge will review the requirements for that badge and identify those requirements that cannot be completed during the Merit Badge Challenge session for that badge. This information can be found in the Attachments tab on the registration webpage.

THE MERIT BADGE COUNSELORS STRONGLY RECOMMEND REVIEWING THE REQUIREMENT AND THE MATERIALS IN ADVANCE, EITHER THE ON-LINE DIGITAL RESOURCE GUIDE OR THE MERIT BADGE PAMPHLET.

Impact of Plagiarism

Scouts are highly encouraged to use the Internet as an aid to earning merit badges (with parental permission). Information obtained should be written by the Scout in their own words. Directly copying can result in the Counselor returning the work as unacceptable.

Completion Records

Completion records are recorded in the Black Pug registration system. The registration contact (the person that created the registration) has the ability to retrieve the completion records. Per the Guide to Advancement, it is the Scout's responsibility to give the merit badge completion record to their unit leader or advancement chair. Counselors are asked to have the records updated within 30 days of the final day of the event. The directions for getting the completion records from the registration system can be found under attachments on the registration webpage. The registration system and these completion records **do not** sync with Scoutbook.

Fees: Merit Badge Challenge Fee $30.00 Early Bird/$45 Regular

Fees: Some merit badges may have additional fees for supplies or materials. These fees will be applied at registration. See the webpage for the site for important date information.

Refund Policy

Due to the high demand of this event and many of the classes, there will be no refunds for multiple registrations.

Individuals or groups that cancel a program reservation 30 days prior to the date of the event will receive a refund of fees paid, less a 20% administrative charge.

No refunds will be given after the 30-day cancellation deadline. Fees are transferable to a previously unregistered scout.

If you have any questions about this, please email Michelle Byrne at michelle.byrne@scouting.org.

Concessions/Lunch

Scouts can bring a brown-bag snack or lunch (depending on your site's schedule). Some venues offer a concession stand or snack bar. Either way, please make sure your Scout knows that NO ONE is to leave the school/campus/site during MBC without prior notice given to the Site Coordinator. This is for your Scout's safety.

All About Registration

OK, you are all set for MBC and ready to register! How do you do that? **(Please note: Your Child must be a registered member of Scouts BSA or Venturing prior to registration. This event is not for children registered as Cub Scouts even if they will be crossing over soon.)** We recommend that you register for MBC with the Troop through your Troop Contact (usually your Advancement Coordinator or an Assistant Scoutmaster). Why would you want to register with the Troop?

- Per the Guide to Advancement, your Scout must have a conversation with their unit leader before beginning any merit badge
- Troop contacts know what merit badges your Scout already has and can prevent them from working on duplicates.

- Troop contacts can ensure that your Scout is taking appropriate merit badges for his age, rank, and ability.
- Troop contacts know what merit badges are most beneficial for your Scout on his Path to Eagle.
- Troop contacts can communicate with Site Coordinators to ask questions and resolve problems that arise for several troop members.

Check with your unit leader to determine their registration preferences. If you choose to register as an individual, a Scout will first need to contact their troop leader or advancement coordinator to guide them as they select their merit badges. Per the BSA Guide to Advancement, 7.0.0.3 on page 41, a Scout should meet with their unit leader to discuss their interest in taking a merit badge.

Scouts, parents or unit leaders can register for Merit Badge Challenge using Black Pug. Links are provided at the end of this guide.

Some merit badges also have age and/or rank recommendations. These recommendations have been established by counselors to help optimize each Scout's experience at MBC. If there is a MB your Scout would like to take but they do not meet the age or rank recommendation, consider having the Scout contact a counselor to work on that badge outside of MBC where the Scout will have a better chance of success. It stands to reason that sometimes Scouts learn the merit badge material better in a small setting versus in a room with up to 19 other Scouts! Please be respectful of our volunteers and their requests.

The MBC Team works diligently to have the most accurate information available to you, but sometimes Life happens and things come up that are unavoidable. Personal issues with counselors or Scouts, cancelling specific classes, snow emergencies, etc. all have an impact on operating MBC. The Site Coordinators make every effort to contact the Scouts affected by these occurrences in a timely manner to help the Scouts be prepared. If anything changes prior or at MBC (including counselors, schedules, and changes in requirements not covered during individual sessions), please be understanding and know we are doing our best! At each site, there will be registrars to assist Scouts with Add/Drop requests.

Inclement Weather

With respect to snow emergencies, please check the event website for information about cancellation. Some sites also use email or other means necessary to contact families. Make sure that the email, NO-REPLY@247SCOUTING.COM is on your safe sender list for your email provider to ensure that you receive these emails.

We hope this packet will be informative and helpful as you prepare for MBC. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact your site coordinator listed below.

Steve Cammarn
Vice Chair Merit Badge Coordination
Council Advancement Chair

MBC Site Coordinators, Locations, and Dates: 2027

Merit Badge Challenge-North-January 16 & 30, 2027

Location:
Fairfield High School
8800 Holden Blvd
Fairfield, Ohio 45014

Registration and Information Link: https://scoutingevent.com/438-mbc_north

Site Chair: Mary Beth Vogerl
513-702-5858 (evenings)
marybethvogerl@gmail.com

Registrar: Kevin Owen
kevin@owenlink.com

Merit Badge Challenge-East-February 6, 20 and March 6, 2027

Location:
Grant Career Center
718 W. Plane St.
Bethel, Ohio 45106

Registration and Information Link: https://scoutingevent.com/438-mbc_east

Site Chair: Michael Banish
mbanish@zoomtown.com

Merit Badge Challenge-Northern Kentucky-March 6 and 20, 2026

Location:
Northern Kentucky University
Griffin Hall Suite
500 Louie B Nunn Dr.
Highland Heights, KY 41099

Registration and Information Link: https://scoutingevent.com/438-mbc_nky

Site Chair: Jeff Richardson
richmail1@yahoo.com

Checklist for Parents & Scouts (regardless of merit badges to be taken):

1. Scout field uniform, sometimes called the Class A uniform, is to be worn all Saturdays.
2. Scouts are expected to arrive to class on time and stay until dismissed by the counselor.
3. Read the merit badge pamphlet ahead of time and bring it to your first class.
4. On the first Saturday the Scout needs to bring the following:
    - Completed Pre-work/Prerequisites/Requirements Not Covered (if appropriate)
    - Pen/Paper/Merit Badge Books/supplies as needed for badges
5. Parents: After the first Saturday class, please verify or observe that your Scout has written the Counselor contact information in his Merit Badge Book or somewhere safe.
6. Merit badge suggestions for first year Scouts:
    - Art
    - Chess (Beginner)
    - Coin Collecting
    - Collections
    - Dog Care
    - Fingerprinting
    - Fire Safety
    - Game Design
    - Genealogy
    - Geology
    - Indian Lore
    - Pets
    - Public Speaking
    - Railroading
    - Reading
    - Safety
    - Scholarship
    - Space Exploration
    - Wood Carving (Totin' Chip card)

Tips for Success at Merit Badge Challenge

- Make sure that you meet the age/rank and experience recommendations listed in the Pre-work/Prerequisites/Requirements Not Covered document on the Attachments tab of the webpage for the site that you are registering for. If you do not, check with your troop contact before signing up for that class. Pre-work/Prerequisites/Requirements Not Covered are different for different counselors at different sites.
- Be aware that some requirements may be too complex to be completed in the classroom setting. Your counselor will inform you of these – either in the "Pre-work/Prerequisites/Requirements Not Covered" information during registration or once you are in class – and provide guidance on completing them.
- Finish the requirements that will not be covered in class before the event, if appropriate, and bring them to your first class.
- Read the Merit Badge Pamphlet or online digital resources beforehand and bring it to class.
- On your first day, write down the counselor's name, email address, and phone number in case you need to contact him/her between classes or after classes to ask questions or notify them of unforeseen absences.
- Come to class prepared to work on all of the requirements for the merit badge. Counselors are expected to hold each Scout accountable for completing the listed requirements before they sign the completion record.
- If you do not meet the age/rank and experience recommendations or have no interest in the subject matter of a specific merit badge, please do not take it at MBC.
- Make sure you are prepared for class on the first day: bring pen and paper, the MB pamphlet, and all work that you completed beforehand. Come to class with a "ready-to-learn" attitude.
- If you follow these guidelines, you should have a successful Merit Badge Challenge.

BE PREPARED!!! Make this Merit Badge Challenge successful!

Scout Registration Information

Merit Badge Challenge 2027

(Scouts can use this form to provide the Troop Contact needed information for registering. This is for Troop use. It is not for registering at Council)

Return to unit contact by: _____

Scout Name: _____

Scout Email (if available): _____

Troop #:_____

Best Email for Scout/Contact: _____

Phone # _____

Parent Email: _____

	Class 1st choice	Class 2nd choice
Session A		
Session B		
Session C		
Session D		

Scout Date of Birth _____

Scout Rank _____