

# Schedule for Railroading Merit Badge

**November 8, 2026**

Location: Calumet Center 507 Calumet Lane, Dayton Ohio

|                |                                                                                                                                           |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9:00-9:15 AM   | Gather, sign up and turn in donated food items for Food Bank                                                                              |
| 9:15-9:30 AM   | <b>Introduction to Railroading Merit Badge Video</b>                                                                                      |
| 9:30-10:00 AM  | Complete requirements 1a, 1b, 1c, & 6d Kirk Perkins & Ed Lamprecht                                                                        |
| 10:00-10:15 AM | Complete requirement 3a Troy Luken & Kirk Perkins                                                                                         |
| 10:15-10:45 AM | Complete requirements 2a & 2b with Kirk Perkins                                                                                           |
| 11:00-12:00 PM | Break... lunch will be your responsibility. You are encouraged to bring a sack lunch or eat at the show concessions, which is often busy. |
| 12:00-1:00 PM  | Complete requirements 4 and 5 Giles Kennedy Operation Lifesaver                                                                           |
| 1:00-1:15 PM   | Complete requirement 7a 2 Kirk Perkins                                                                                                    |
| 1:15-2:00 PM   | Complete requirements 6a 6b and 6c. Kirk Perkins                                                                                          |
| 2:00-2:45 PM   | Complete requirement 7a.1 You will build a model railroad car kit, which will be yours to keep at no cost to you! Troy, Daryl, Ed & Kirk  |
| 2:45- 3:30 PM  | Wrap up and sign off Merit Badge blue cards Kirk.                                                                                         |

**Here are the requirements that will be covered.**

**(You will need to prepare by studying your Railroading Merit Badge book *PRIOR* to class!)**

1. Do the following:
  - a. Name three types of modern freight trains. Explain why unit trains are more efficient than mixed freight trains.
  - b. Using models or pictures, identify 10 types of railroad freight or passenger cars. Explain the purpose of each type of car.
  - c. Explain how a modern diesel or electric locomotive develops power. Explain the terms dynamic braking and radial steering trucks.
2. Do the following:
  - a. Explain the purpose and formation of Amtrak. Explain, by the use of a timetable, a plan for making a trip by rail between two cities at least 500 miles apart. List the times of departure and arrival at your destination, the train number, and the type of service you want.
  - b. List and explain the various forms of public/mass transit using rail.
3. Do the following:
  - a. With your parent's and counselor's approval, interview someone employed in the rail industry. Learn what that person does and how this person became interested in railroading. Find out what type of schooling and training are required for this position.
4. Do the following:
  - a. Explain the purpose of Operation Lifesaver and its mission.
  - b. List 9 track basic safety tips to remember when you are around a railroad track.
  - c. List 9 safety considerations that should be followed when walking near a railroad track.
  - d. Tell your counselor what a driver can do safely operate near tracks.
  - e. Explain safety precautions when using a light rail or commuter train.

5. Explain the appearance and meaning of the following rail signs and signals:
  - a. Passive signs and active signs.
  - b. Devices at the crossing (flashing red lights — with or without bells, flashing red lights and gates, and cantilever flashing lights)
  - c. Markings on the road (pavement markings and stop bars)
  - d. Signs before the crossing (advance warning sign, advance warning sign for side streets, no train horn sign, and low ground clearance grade crossing sign)
  - e. Signs along the railroad property (no trespassing sign)
  - f. Signs at the crossing (crossbuck sign, emergency notification system sign, multiple track sign, stop sign, and yield sign).
6. Do EACH of the following:
  - a. Explain how railroad signals operate and show two basic signal types using color and configuration.
  - b. Explain the meaning of three horn signals.
  - c. Describe a way to signal a train for an emergency stop.
  - d. Explain the use and function of the EOTD (end-of-train device) or FRED (Flashing rear end device) used on the last car of most freight trains.
7. a. Complete the requirements: Model Railroading
  1. Build one model railroad car kit or one locomotive kit.
  2. Name the scale of four popular model railroad gauges. Identify the scale of four model cars or locomotives.