

Pawnee Bill Merit Badge University Leaders Guide



2026

Welcome

Welcome to the **2026 Pawnee Bill Merit Badge University** at Oklahoma State University!

On behalf of the **Pawnee Bill District Committee** and the **Honors College at Oklahoma State University**, we are excited to welcome you to campus for this special day of learning, leadership, and fun. This year marks the **third year of partnership** between our district and the Honors College, and we are grateful for the continued collaboration that makes this event possible.

Merit Badge University is designed to give Scouts the opportunity to explore new interests, develop practical skills, and make meaningful progress on their advancement in an environment that reflects the spirit of higher education and lifelong learning. Holding this event on the OSU campus allows Scouts to experience a college setting while learning from knowledgeable counselors and volunteers who are passionate about sharing their expertise.

We hope each Scout leaves today having earned badges, discovered something new, and enjoyed time with fellow Scouts and leaders. Just as importantly, we hope this experience inspires curiosity, confidence, and a continued commitment to growth both in Scouting and beyond.

Thank you to our volunteers, counselors, leaders, and families for making this event possible. Your support ensures that Merit Badge University continues to be a memorable and worthwhile experience for everyone involved.

Scott Wilson

Chair, Pawnee Bill District Committee

Dr. Keith Garbutt

Dean, Honors College
Oklahoma State University

Event Overview & Purpose

The Pawnee Bill Merit Badge University is a one-day academic and skills-focused event designed to help Scouts explore new interests, work toward advancement, and experience learning in a college environment.

Hosted on the campus of Oklahoma State University through our partnership with the Honors College, this event brings together knowledgeable merit badge counselors, district volunteers, and campus partners to provide high-quality instruction across a wide range of subjects. Scouts

have the opportunity to earn or make significant progress on merit badges while interacting with experts and gaining exposure to a university setting.

New this year, we are offering the First-Year Scout Track, designed for our youngest Scouts (5th–6th grade). This track provides **two engaging merit badges** that are appropriate for younger Scouts and are intended to be fun, hands-on, and introductory in nature. Scouts in **5th grade**, or in **6th grade who have not yet attended summer camp**, are encouraged to sign up for this track.

We are also offering optional campus tours for older Scouts who are beginning to think about college. Scouts may choose a **morning or afternoon tour** of Oklahoma State University to learn more about campus life, academic programs, and resources — giving them a chance to explore higher education in a guided, structured way.

Our goals for the day are:

- Provide a safe, well-organized learning environment
- Deliver meaningful, hands-on merit badge instruction
- Encourage curiosity and exploration beyond the classroom
- Model responsibility, respect, and Scout spirit on a college campus
- Offer age-appropriate experiences for younger Scouts through the First-Year Scout Track
- Introduce older Scouts to college life and opportunities via the campus tours
- Make the experience enjoyable for Scouts and leaders alike

Merit Badge University is not only about advancement — it is about discovery. We hope Scouts leave with new skills, new friendships, and greater confidence in their ability to learn and lead

Schedule at a Glance

Merit Badge University is organized into two extended instructional sessions with guided movement between locations to ensure a smooth and timely day. Honors College student volunteers will assist Scouts throughout the day by escorting them to classrooms and helping with transitions.

Time	Activity	Location / Notes
8:00–9:00 AM	Check-In	Old Central Building — All Scouts and leaders check in.
9:00 AM–12:00 PM	First Session	Classroom Building — Merit badge classes meet. Scouts in the First-Year Scout Track attend their track session. Older Scouts may opt for a morning campus tour of OSU (optional).
12:00–1:00 PM	Lunch	Classroom Building — Lunch delivered to classrooms; Scouts remain in assigned areas.
1:00–4:00 PM	Second Session	Classroom Building — Afternoon merit badge classes meet. First-Year Scout Track continues if needed. Older Scouts may choose an afternoon campus tour (optional).
4:00–4:30 PM	Checkout	Old Central Building — All Scouts return to check out. Advancement records will be available for download after the event.

Notes for Leaders:

- The First-Year Scout Track is intended for 5th–6th grade Scouts who are new to Merit Badge University; 5th graders or 6th graders who have not attended summer camp should sign up for this track.
- Optional campus tours are intended for older Scouts considering college and may occur in either the morning or afternoon session.

- Check-in and checkout are required for all Scouts, even if attending only one session or taking a tour.
 - Lunch is delivered directly to classrooms; Scouts should remain in their assigned areas.
-

Arrival & Check-In Procedures

Check-in is quick and simple to get Scouts into their classes efficiently.

Arrival

- Enter **Old Central through the south-side doors**
- Follow posted signs and staff directions
- Keep your unit together while entering and waiting to check in

Check-In

- Staff will verify each Scout's registration
- Staff will mark the Scout as present
- Confirm class assignments if needed

Reminders

- All Scouts must check in, even if attending only one session
- Arrive early enough to check in before 9:00 AM
- Late arrivals should report to Old Central before going to class

After check-in, Honors College student volunteers will escort Scouts to the classroom buildings.

Merit Badges & Prerequisites

Several merit badges require pre-work to be completed before the event. Scouts who arrive prepared are more likely to complete their badges during the event.

First-Year Scout Track

Designed for younger Scouts (5th–6th grade). Provides **two engaging merit badges** that are fun and introductory in nature. Scouts in 5th grade, or 6th grade who have not attended summer camp, should sign up for this track. The track continues through both morning and afternoon sessions; Scouts who complete the merit badges early may work on additional advancement activities provided by the counselors. Includes Fingerprinting as part of the program.

Merit Badge	Pre-Requisites / What to Bring
Aviation	None
Citizenship in the Nation	Complete requirements 5, 7d, 8; bring completed worksheet: http://usscouts.org/mb/worksheets/Citizenship-in-the-Nation.pdf
Citizenship in the World	Bring completed worksheet: http://usscouts.org/mb/worksheets/citizenship-in-the-world.pdf
Emergency Preparedness (E-Prep)	Complete requirements 2a, 2b, 2c, 6, 7, 9; optional checklist: http://usscouts.org/mb/docs/Home-Safety-Checklist.pdf
First Year Scout Track	Chess: requirement 1b; Fingerprinting: none

Forestry	Complete requirements 1, 2, 8; requirement 6 may be completed during MBU or later
Music	Ability to read music; bring instrument for Requirement 1 (unless singing)
Pioneering	Practice and familiarity with knots, lashings, and splices listed in the Merit Badge Guide
Plumbing	Complete requirements 6 and 7
Public Speaking	Prepare talk and visual aids for Requirement 2; complete all of Requirement 4 except delivery
Salesmanship	Complete requirements 5, 6, 7
Scouting Heritage	Complete requirements 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8; optional worksheet: http://usscouts.org/mb/worksheets/Scouting-heritage.pdf

What Scouts Should Bring

General Items

- Scout uniform (Class A or as directed by your unit)
- Pen or pencil
- Notebook or paper for notes
- Water bottle (water fountains in buildings have bottle filling capability)

Optional / Helpful

- Comfortable shoes for walking between buildings

- Snacks (if desired; lunch is provided)
- Sunscreen or hat if outdoor activities are scheduled

Badge-Specific Items & Pre-Work: see table in previous section

Leader Responsibilities & Supervision

Leaders have **minimal responsibilities** once Scouts are checked in.

During the Event

- Leaders may wait in **Old Central**, walk campus, or explore Stillwater
- Scouts are supervised by Merit Badge counselors and Honors College student volunteers

Emergencies

- Leaders will be contacted immediately in case of any emergency
- Ensure your contact information is on file at check-in

Key Points

- Leaders are not required to stay with Scouts in classrooms or lunch areas
 - Leaders may check on Scouts as desired, but supervision is provided
-

Checkout & Departure Procedures

Location: Old Central Building

Time: 4:00–4:30 PM

Procedure

1. Scouts return to Old Central at the end of their session(s)

2. Staff verify attendance
3. Leaders confirm all Scouts are present
4. **Advancement records will not be handed out at checkout**
 - Progress will be **available to download from the registration page** by **Wednesday following the event**

Leader Notes

- Remain on site until all Scouts have completed checkout
- Ensure contact information is accurate
- Units are free to depart once checkout is complete