

Chester County Council

Merit Badge College

At Archmere Academy

Program Guide

Dates:

November 14, 2026 &
February 20, 2027
(must attend both dates)

Location:

Archmere Academy
3600 Philadelphia Pike
Claymont, DE

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Dear Parents / Guardians / Leaders,

We are thrilled that your Scout will participate in our upcoming **Merit Badge College** program! This event offers Scouts an excellent opportunity to explore new subjects, learn from knowledgeable instructors, and make progress on their advancement journey.

As we prepare for a successful day, we would like to remind everyone that **Merit Badge College is a learning experience, not a shortcut to rank advancement**. Merit badges are designed to help Scouts develop skills, gain knowledge, and demonstrate personal growth through active participation and individual effort.

To help your Scout get the most out of this experience, please encourage them to:

- Arrive on time and be ready to participate.
- Review any prerequisites and complete them before the event.
- Bring all required materials and supplies.
- Take responsibility for their own learning, note-taking, and participation.
- Demonstrate the Scout Oath and Scout Law throughout the day.

Your support plays an important role in the success of Merit Badge College. By ensuring Scouts are prepared, punctual, and accountable for their own work, you help maintain the integrity of the Scouting advancement program while creating a positive experience for all participants, instructors, and volunteers.

We look forward to an exciting and educational event and appreciate your partnership in helping every Scout succeed.

Welcome

Welcome to the Chester County Council Merit Badge College (MBC) hosted by Archmere Academy. This event is designed to give Scouts high-quality instruction from approved merit badge counselors while reinforcing the principles of personal responsibility, preparedness, and the Scout Law. Merit Badge College is an opportunity to **learn, practice skills, and work toward advancement**—not a guarantee of badge completion.

Scouts have the opportunity to earn up to four merit badges. Scouts will receive a patch commemorating their participation in the Merit Badge College. Patches will be presented at the Session 2 check-in.

Event Structure & Attendance Requirement

Important:

A Scout **MUST** attend **BOTH Session 1 and Session 2**

- Scouts register for the **first session only**, but enrollment commits them to **both sessions**
- Scouts must:
 - Attend all assigned class periods
 - Actively participate
 - Complete all required prerequisites and homework
- Merit badges are **worked on during Session 1** and **completed during Session 2**
- Some requirements **cannot be completed in a classroom** and must be finished:
 - As an assigned prerequisite
 - Between sessions
 - After Session 2 (partial)

There are **more than 90 days between sessions**, providing adequate time to complete assigned work.

Daily Schedule

Check-In Begins: 8:00 a.m.

(Please plan to arrive no later than 8:45 a.m.)

Class Periods

- Period 1: 9:00 – 10:30 a.m.
- Period 2: 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
- Lunch / Break: 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.
- Period 3: 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.
- Period 4: 2:30 – 4:00 p.m.

Dismissal:

- Immediately following Period 4 at **4:00 p.m.**

Check-In & Medical Forms

- Bring completed **AHMR Parts A & B**
- Do NOT bring Part C
- Medical forms will be:
 - Retained between Session 1 and Session 2
 - Destroyed after the final session

Scouts will check in by troop number (make sure your registration accurately reflects your troop number)

At check-in, Scouts will receive:

- A campus map (both sessions)
- An updated schedule with classroom assignments (both sessions)
- Assistance from MBC ambassadors (both sessions)
- Merit Badge College patch (second session only)

Inclement Weather / Need to Cancel

If weather conditions require a session to be canceled, a notification will be sent to the email addresses associated with each registration. The session will not be rescheduled for in-person instruction, and no refunds will be issued. Counselors will make reasonable efforts to work with Scouts to help them complete their merit badge requirements.

Code of Conduct

The Scout Law is the Law of the Merit Badge College. All Scouts and leaders must demonstrate Scout Spirit.

Scouts who demonstrate un-Scout-like behavior may be:

- Removed from class
- Dismissed from the event without refund

Uniform

- This is a **CLASS A (Field Uniform) event**
- **Dress appropriately for the weather.** Some activities may be outside; you will be walking between buildings

Cell Phones

Out of respect to instructors and fellow Scouts

- If you must have a cell phone, it must be set to **silent or vibrate**
- No calls, texts, or usage during class time unless explicitly granted by the merit badge instructor

Communications

All digital communications between Scouts and counselors or other adults must include a second adult.

- If text message, a second adult must be included (parent, scoutmaster, etc.)
- If email, a second adult must be CCed. (Parent, scoutmaster, etc)

Choosing Merit Badges

- Review the Merit Badge College catalog carefully
- Choose badges that **genuinely interest the Scout**, not just those for rank advancement
- Discuss selections with:
 - Scoutmaster
 - Parents or guardians
- A signed Scoutmaster approval form must be **uploaded with registration**
 - **If this is not included within 2 weeks of registration, your space may be forfeited to someone on the waiting list.**

 Schedules may be adjusted to:

- Maintain Youth Protection standards
- Improve the instructional experience
- Scouts will receive their official schedule at check-in.

Age Guidelines

- All badges are open to all Scouts
- Some merit badges move at a faster pace or require more maturity and are **better suited for older Scouts**. Younger Scouts may struggle and impact the class experience
- Choose wisely to ensure the best learning opportunity.
- **Scouts must get Scoutmaster approval before beginning merit badges**. Scouts must upload a signed acknowledgment to their registration within 2 weeks of registration to hold their space. If signed acknowledgment is not received, they may forfeit their space.

Preparing for Merit Badge College

After registration, Scouts should:

1. **Download and review merit badge pamphlets:**
<https://www.scouting.org/skills/merit-badges/all/>
2. Discuss with your Scoutmaster what badges you are taking. Upload the signed approval form to your registration.
3. Complete all required **prerequisites**
4. Be prepared for **active discussion and participation**
5. Bring proof of completed work:
 - Photos
 - Written notes
 - Projects
 - Signed blue card sections if completing a partial.

Some requirements will be assigned as homework and **must be completed between Session 1 and Session 2**.

Prerequisites

Lunch Information

- Lunch is **not included** in registration; it is an optional add-on.
- Scouts may:
 - Bring a bagged lunch
 - Purchase lunch during registration for **\$10/weekend**
- Lunch / Break period is **1 hour**

Merit Badge Expectations

- **Badge completion is NOT guaranteed**
- Counselors determine completion based on BSA requirements
- Attendance alone does **not** earn a merit badge
 - “Show” means show. “Demonstrate” means demonstrate.
- Partial awards are acceptable and common
- Scouts are responsible for finding a counselor to finish any partial merit badges after Session 2.

Work must be:

- Organized
- Clearly labeled
- Neat and legible

Merit badges will use requirements **current as of November 14, 2026**

- If requirements change after the event begins:
 - Scouts may continue using the original requirements per the Guide to Advancement

Blue Cards & Advancement Records

- Advancement records will be updated within 10 days of each session
- Digital blue cards will be available within 10 days **after Session 2**
- Counselors will post records **on Blackpug**.
- Counselors may not retain offline copies

Printing Online Blue Cards

1. Open your registration confirmation email
2. Click the registration link
3. Select the **Reports** tab
4. Choose **Blue Card, Plain Paper**
5. Preview and print (double-sided, long edge recommended)

For multiple Scouts:

- Open individual Scout profiles
- Click the blue card icon next to each Scout's schedule

List of Merit Badges Offered

All Merit Badges will be offered each period. Individual schedules may be adjusted to accommodate Safeguarding Youth policies and/or enhance the merit badge experience.

American Business	Electronics
American Cultures	Engineering
Art	Entrepreneurship
Artificial Intelligence	Environmental Science
Chess	Family Life
Citizenship in the Community	Fingerprinting
Citizenship in the Nation	First Aid
Citizenship in the World	Game Design
Coin Collecting	Genealogy
Collections	Graphic Arts
Communications	Law
Cybersecurity	Nuclear Science
Emergency Preparedness	Personal Fitness
Electricity	Personal Management
	Photography

Sample Schedule

	Session 1 (Nov 14)	Session 2 (Feb 20)
Period 1	Art (Start)	Art (Finish)
Period 2	Collections (Start)	Collections (Finish)
Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
Period 3	Cit. in the Nation (Start)	Cit. in the Nation (Finish)
Period 4	Communications (Start)	Communications (Finish)

Adult Training Opportunities

9:00-11:00

Scouts BSA Advancement

In this course, parents and unit leaders will learn how to help their Scouts advance. We will cover how much time to plan to earn ranks, how to use Scoutbook Plus to link Scouts to merit badge counselors, begin a new merit badge, and record Scout activities and accomplishments. We'll also discuss key parts of the Guide to Advancement and some common pitfalls in the advancement process and how to avoid them.

1:00-2:30

The Essentials of Merit Badge Counseling

This course offers good information about merit badge counseling for anyone who is a potential, new, or experienced merit badge counselor. Learn about who can be a merit badge counselor, what you can and should do in the role, and why experienced merit badge counselors enjoy this type of volunteering. Attendees will receive training credit from Scouting U.

2:30-4:00

Eagle Scout Process and Guidance

This course is open to parents of potential Eagle Scouts, troop leaders, Eagle Scout advisors, and Eagle project coaches.

Please join us to hear an overview of the Eagle Scout Process, along with discussion about what makes a successful Eagle Scout project, and how adults can help Scouts through the process.

Campus Map

