



**MERIT BADGE UNIVERSITY
INDIAN WATERS COUNCIL
Leader's Guide**

MARCH 21, 2026
RIVER BLUFF HIGH
SCHOOL
Address:
320 Corley Mill Rd
Lexington, SC 29072

INDIAN WATERS COUNCIL 553

Boy Scouts of America

January 22, 2026

Dear Scouter,

Merit Badge University is a unique opportunity for Scouts to earn a Merit Badge. **This one-day event will be held at River Bluff High School.**

MBU is scheduled for Saturday, March 21, 2026

The Merit Badge system is designed to help Scouts explore career fields and areas of interest. We offer several sessions of the more popular Eagle-required Merit Badges, but please encourage your Scouts to use MBU as an opportunity to explore other exciting opportunities, such as **Journalism** or the new **Artificial Intelligence MB**

The **\$20.00** cost per Scout helps cover facility rental, insurance, lunch, a special MBU patch, teaching aids and supplies. Adult registration is also required. For their **\$15.00** fee, adults will also receive a patch, lunch and registration for the **University of Scouting** that will be held the same day at River Bluff High School.

Online registration is required for this event. After your troop completes the on-line registration, a confirmation e-mail will be sent to the email address on your registration form. Please make sure the email address submitted is valid and can receive attachments. *If you do not receive a confirmation e-mail within 24 hours after completing your online registration, please contact us.*

Space is limited; this event is on a first come first served basis, so prompt registration is important. Thank you for your consideration and attention and we look forward to seeing you at MBU this year.

Important Info:

- Male and female scouts will be in classes together and counselors will be a mix of male and female and like the rest of scouting, MBU has an “Open Door Policy”, leaders and parents are welcome to attend any class, we just ask that you do not disturb ongoing instruction.
- Lunch times are different for each class, so scouts should be prepared to eat with their class and not with their unit (lunch is provided as part of the registration).
- **Troops should register as a unit online and plan to have one person responsible for registration the day of the event.**
- It is important that leaders work with their scouts to make sure they choose a badge that is right for them.
- Once registration is closed, we cannot make any changes to your unit’s registration. This includes scouts switching classes or adding additional scouts. However, we will have a system in place the morning of MBU, where scouts can change to a different class from any open sessions, and we will be able to register any scouts that did not sign up before registration closed.
- **Climb to First Class** will be offered again this year scouts to learn skills required for Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class. Participants will be divided into patrols and work with older scouts serving as instructors. **Recommended for scouts that have just crossed over from Webelos.**

Yours in Scouting,
Ed Helms
IWC Advancement Chair
eshelms@gmail.com

M E R I T B A D G E U N I V E R S I T Y 2 0 2 6

Indian Waters Council

Saturday March 21, 2026, 8:30 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.

River Bluff High School

Please review the list of Merit Badge classes offered at this year's MBU and help your Scouts determine what classes they would be interested in and best suited to take.

It is very important that leaders help their Scouts choose a badge that is appropriate to their age, rank and maturity level. **Please go over the requirements with your Scouts before they sign up and make sure, they know what is expected of them.**

Registration and packet pick-up on the morning of MBU will be done by UNIT ONLY. Please identify ONE person, from your unit, to pick up and oversee your unit's paperwork for the day.

To register online please go to the council website, www.indianwaters.org and look for the Merit Badge University/University of Scouting link on the front page.

Each year MBU fills up before the deadline. Registration will be closed once classes are filled.

M E R I T B A D G E C L A S S E S O F F E R E D

| | | |
|---|--|----------------------------------|
| Art | <i>Cooking</i> | Law |
| <i>Citizenship in the Community</i> | *Cybersecurity/ Artificial Intelligence | Nuclear Science |
| <i>Citizenship in the Nation</i> | **Disc Golf | <i>Personal Management</i> |
| <i>Citizenship in the World</i> | <i>Emergency Prep</i> | <i>Sustainability</i> |
| <i>Communication</i> | *Journalism/Scholarship | *Traffic Safety/Crime Prevention |
| Climb To First Class (See info on first page) | | |

Notes:

- Eagle Required Badges are in Italics.
- *These two badges will be taught as one class.
- **Disc Golf is now part of the Golf MB.

MBU Prerequisites and Special Notes

| | Special Notes |
|---------------------------------------|---------------|
| Art | - |
| Citizenship in the Community | Note #3 |
| Citizenship in the Nation | Note #1 & #3 |
| Citizenship in the World | Note #3 |
| Communication | Note #4 |
| Cooking | - |
| Cybersecurity/Artificial Intelligence | |
| Disc Golf | - |
| Emergency Prep | Note #1 |
| Journalism/Scholarship | |
| Nuclear Science | - |
| Law | |
| Personal Management | Note #3 |
| Sustainability | Note #5 |
| Traffic Safety/Crime Prevention | - |

Notes:

1. Scouts should have earned **First Aid MB** before taking **Emergency Prep MB**.
2. Scouts should complete requirement 5 prior to MBU.
3. It is **HIGHLY** recommended that Scouts be at least First Class and be in the seventh grade or higher.
4. Scouts should prepare for their 5-minute speech ahead of time.
5. Requirement 8A cannot be completed at MBU but scouts can bring a note from their leader if they have completed this requirement

IMPORTANT FOR ALL BADGES:

Please make sure all Scouts review and become familiar with the requirements of their badge and know what will be expected of them the day of MBU. Also, we will be sending out updates to leaders as we get closer to MBU, this will be important information that you will need to share with your scouts. This might include additional prerequisites.

Information regarding additional prerequisites and special notes maybe be sent out by email before MBU.