



Tidewater University of Scouting 2026

Class Catalog

Event Contacts

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Visit www.scoutingevent.com/596-UOS2026 to register



Class Catalog

Tidewater University of Scouting 2026: Saturday at Old Dominion University

- MB252**
Sat 9:00 AM
ED 1102
Chutima Boonthum-Denecke
- 
- Artificial Intelligence (AI)**
The Artificial Intelligence (AI) Merit Badge introduces Scouts to the fundamentals of AI and automation through hands-on activities and real-world examples. Scouts learn key terms, explore how AI and automation are used in daily life, school, and work, and examine ethical concerns like bias and privacy. They also investigate deepfakes, practice communicating effectively with AI, and apply their knowledge through a project or teaching activity. Finally, Scouts explore career paths in AI by researching or interviewing professionals in the field.
Maximum number of participants: 12
Prerequisites: 1, 4, 8, 7b (prep a 4-7 min lesson on AI to teach the class). Min 1st Class rank or age 14
- MB113**
Sat 2:00 PM
MGB 127
David Crandall
- 
- Automotive Maintenance**
Modern automobiles are important to many aspects of American life. Those who service automobiles must understand each principle, and how these principles interact to provide smooth, efficient performance. Owners of cars also benefit by understanding how their vehicles operate. This enables them to understand why certain periodic maintenance is required to keep their vehicles in tip-top shape.
Maximum number of participants: 12
Prerequisites: 1H, 11A
- MB114**
Sat 8:00 AM
ED 1103
John Gleason
- 
- Aviation**
For most of history, people have dreamed of flying, imagining how it would feel to soar through the sky like an eagle or hover in midair like a hummingbird, to float on unseen currents, free of Earth's constant tug, able to travel great distances and to rise above any obstacle. Today, through aviation, we can not only join the birds but also fly farther, faster, and higher than they ever could.
Maximum number of participants: 12
Prerequisites: 3a, 3b, 3c, or 3e, and 4 Bring pictures and be prepared to discuss.
- MB240**
Sat 8:00 AM
MGB 129
Danielle Craven
- 
- Citizenship in Society (2025 version)**
"Discussion" requirements will be either with a counselor and another individual (in accordance with Youth Protection Guidelines <https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/gss01/>), or with your counselor and a small group (of Scouts), depending upon your preference.
Maximum number of participants: 24
Prerequisites: 1, 2, 6, 8

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MB122

Sat 8:00 AM
DRGS 1117
Mike Miller



Citizenship in the Community

A nation is a patchwork of communities that differ from each other and may be governed differently. But regardless of how local communities differ, they all have one point in common: In the United States, local government means self-government. Good citizens help to make decisions about their community through their elected local officials.

Maximum number of participants: 12

Prerequisites: 3, 4, 7c. Ready to discuss 2, 3, 4, 6, 7a, 7b, 8

MB256

Sat 8:00 AM

Hallie Shields



Citizenship in the Community

A nation is a patchwork of communities that differ from each other and may be governed differently. But regardless of how local communities differ, they all have one point in common: In the United States, local government means self-government. Good citizens help to make decisions about their community through their elected local officials.

Maximum number of participants: 12

Prerequisites: 3, 4, 7c. Ready to discuss 2, 3, 4, 6, 7a, 7b, 8

MB123

Sat 8:00 AM
MGB 102
Gilbert Craven



Citizenship in the Nation

As Scouts fulfill the requirements for this merit badge, they will learn how to become active citizens are aware of and grateful for their liberties and rights, to participate in their governments and protect their freedom, helping to defend their country and standing up for individual rights on behalf of all its citizens.

Maximum number of participants: 12

Prerequisites: 2, 5, 6, 7, 8. Recommended for 1st Class & above

MB257

Sat 8:00 AM

Jared Alessi



Citizenship in the Nation

As Scouts fulfill the requirements for this merit badge, they will learn how to become active citizens are aware of and grateful for their liberties and rights, to participate in their governments and protect their freedom, helping to defend their country and standing up for individual rights on behalf of all its citizens.

Maximum number of participants: 12

Prerequisites: 2, 5, 6, 7, 8. Recommended for 1st Class & above

MB124

Sat 2:00 PM
Sat 8:00 AM
DRGS 2105
Meagan Mead



Citizenship in the World

Scouts who earn the Citizenship in the World merit badge will discover that they are already citizens of the world. How good a world citizen each person is depends on his willingness to understand and appreciate the values, traditions, and concerns of people in other countries.

Maximum number of participants: 15

Prerequisites: 3a, 3b

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MB127

Sat 8:00 AM
ED 1115
Chip Elliott



Collections

Collecting can be an educational and financially rewarding pastime: a collector must educate himself about a specific subject, be able to tell which items are worth preserving, how to catalog and organize his collection, and how to evaluate the value of items.

Maximum number of participants: 12

Prerequisites: Bring a written report for requirement #1. Bring items or pictures of items from their collection for requirement #5b. Be prepared to discuss and/or bring notes for all other requirements.

MB128

Fri 6:00 PM
Sat 10:00 AM
Sat 8:00 AM
CONST 1052
Hallie Shields



Communication

This clear and concise definition comes from the U.S. Department of Education: "Communication focuses on how people use messages to generate meanings within and across various contexts, cultures, channels, and media. The field of communication promotes the effective and ethical practice of human communication."

Maximum number of participants: 16

Prerequisites: 1, 5, 8

MB132

Sat 8:00 AM
DRGS 2104
Clark Walters



Crime Prevention

Preventing crime, which can be as simple as reducing the opportunities for crime to occur, is far less costly than apprehending and bringing legal action against those who break the law and it helps save people from the anguish of being victims.

Maximum number of participants: 12

MB253

Sat 8:00 AM
MGB 101
Paul Rees



Cybersecurity

The Cybersecurity Merit Badge equips Scouts with essential knowledge and skills to navigate and protect the digital world. Scouts learn about online safety, ethical behavior, cyber threats, and how to defend against them using tools like firewalls, antivirus software, and strong passwords. They explore encryption, connected devices, and the risks of public Wi-Fi, while also practicing safe habits like updating software and backing up data. Through hands-on activities, Scouts investigate real-world cyber incidents, participate in cybersecurity challenges, and explore career opportunities in the field.

Maximum number of participants: 12

Prerequisites: 1a, 4e1 or 4e2

MB134

Sat 10:00 AM
Sat 2:00 PM
ED 1100
Shannon Morgan



Dentistry

Teeth do a lot more than just peek out from under that winning smile. They have all sorts of duties, and having healthy teeth will help a person to eat, speak, and look great.

Maximum number of participants: 12

Prerequisites: Dental Slip indicating cleaning in last 6 months

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MB135

Sat 2:00 PM
Sat 8:00 AM

ED 1100
Rachel Spradling



Disabilities Awareness

Look around at the Scouts in your unit, the members of your sports teams, and the kids in your class - you will see that each person has their own personalities, distinct interests and ideas, different physical features, and different strengths and needs.

Maximum number of participants: 12

MB138

Fri 6:00 PM
Sat 8:00 AM

CONST 1064
Mike Yost



Electricity

Electricity is a powerful and fascinating force of nature. As early as 600 b.c., observers of the physical world suspected that electricity existed but did not have a name for it. In fact, real progress in unraveling the mystery of electricity has come only within the last 250 years.

Maximum number of participants: 8

Prerequisites: 2, 7 (bring home inspection & electrical diagram)

MB140

Sat 2:00 PM

DRGS 2118
Adam Levine



Emergency Preparedness

Scouts are often called upon to help because they know first aid and they know about the discipline and planning needed to react to an emergency situation. Earning this merit badge helps a Scout to be prepared by learning the actions that can be helpful and needed before, during, and after an emergency.

Maximum number of participants: 12

Prerequisites: 1b, 2a, 2b, 2c, 3, 8b, 8c, 8d, 9, 10

MB141

Fri 6:00 PM
Sat 8:00 AM

CONST 1037
Elbert "Buddy" Hooper



Energy

Saving, producing, and using energy wisely will be critical to America's future. If we are to leave future generations with a world in which they can live as well or better than we have, Scouts and other potential leaders of tomorrow must begin the hard work of understanding energy and the vital role it will play in the future.

Maximum number of participants: 10

Prerequisites: workbook

MB142

Sat 8:00 AM

DRGS 2106
Bill Howey



Engineering

Engineers use both science and technology to turn ideas into reality, devising all sorts of things, ranging from a tiny, low-cost battery for your cell phone to a gigantic dam across the mighty Yangtze River in China.

Maximum number of participants: 15

Prerequisites: 2, 9

MB143

Sat 8:00 AM

DRGS 2108
Mack Brunson



Entrepreneurship

By earning the Entrepreneurship merit badge, Scouts will learn about identifying opportunities, creating and evaluating business ideas, and exploring the feasibility (how doable it is) of an idea for a new business. They will also have the chance to fit everything together as they start and run their own business ventures.

Maximum number of participants: 12

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| <p>MB144
Sat 8:00 AM
DRGS 2110
Erin Nimmo</p> |  | <p>Environmental Science
While earning the Environmental Science merit badge, Scouts will get a taste of what it is like to be an environmental scientist, making observations and carrying out experiments to investigate the natural world.
Maximum number of participants: 12
Prerequisites: 2, 6, 11</p> |
| <p>MB145
Fri 6:00 PM
Sat 2:00 PM
CONST 1055
Gene Hoffman</p> |  | <p>Family Life
The family is the basic unit of society and is important to both individuals and communities. The world is rapidly changing, making today's society much more complex than ever before. As Scouts earn this merit badge, they will realize why it is important to know more about family life and how to strengthen their families.
Maximum number of participants: 16
Prerequisites: 3, 4, 6</p> |
| <p>MB247
Sat 2:00 PM
DRGS 2108
Christine Ross</p> |  | <p>Family Life
The family is the basic unit of society and is important to both individuals and communities. The world is rapidly changing, making today's society much more complex than ever before. As Scouts earn this merit badge, they will realize why it is important to know more about family life and how to strengthen their families.
Maximum number of participants: 12
Prerequisites: 3, 4, 6</p> |
| <p>MB255
Fri 6:00 PM
Sat 2:00 PM
Sat 8:00 AM

Gene Hoffman</p> |  | <p>Family Life (2023 version)
The family is the basic unit of society and is important to both individuals and communities. The world is rapidly changing, making today's society much more complex than ever before. As Scouts earn this merit badge, they will realize why it is important to know more about family life and how to strengthen their families.

Maximum number of participants: 12
Prerequisites: 3, 4, 6</p> |
| <p>MB147
Sat 2:00 PM
ED 1102
Chutima Boonthum-Denecke</p> |  | <p>Fingerprinting
In earning the Fingerprinting merit badge, Scouts will learn about and use an important technique that is used by law enforcement officers, along with other materials like matching dental records and DNA sampling, to help identify amnesia victims, missing persons, abducted children, and others.
Maximum number of participants: 12
Prerequisites: 1, 2, 6</p> |

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MB233

Fri 6:00 PM

CONST 1051

Cory Van Kirk



Game Design

Games come in almost every shape, size, format, and flavor imaginable. Games can be fast-paced, slow, or anything in between. Some are competitive. Some are cooperative. They may be for individuals, small groups, or thousands of players at a time. They might take seconds to complete or last for years. However you slice it, everyone has played games, and games help make us who we are.

Maximum number of participants: 12

Prerequisites: 6, 7

MB155

Fri 6:00 PM

CONST 1060

Lindsey Guinazzo



Genealogy

Exploring your roots - where your family name came from, why your family lives where it does, what your parents and grandparents did for fun when they were your age - can be fascinating. Discovering your ancestors back through history is what genealogy is all about.

Maximum number of participants: 16

Prerequisites: workbook & 7, 8, 9

MB224

Sat 2:00 PM

DRGS 2105

Shannon Waszak



Geocaching

The word geocache is a combination of "geo," which means "earth," and "cache," which means "a hiding place." Geocaching describes a hiding place on planet Earth - a hiding place you can find using a GPS unit. A GPS (Global Positioning System) unit is an electronic tool that shows you where to go based on information it gets from satellites in space.

Maximum number of participants: 8

Prerequisites: 7, 8, 9. Bring GPS & Compass if available

MB244

Fri 7:00 PM

Sat 8:00 AM

CONST 1059

Lauren Kalodner



Health Care Professions (2021 version)

Explore the different types of the healthcare fields and professions with the Health Care Professions Merit Badge. Scouts will learn how professionals in different health care fields work together to keep people healthy. The Health Care Professions Merit Badge generates excitement for a possible career in the healthcare industry.

Maximum number of participants: 15

Prerequisites: 5, 9 (write a brief blurb about each & be prepared to discuss)

MB164

Sat 8:00 AM

DRGS 2115

Kathy Lull



Journalism

One thing is for sure about journalism: It is never boring. For a reporter, almost every day is different from the last. One day you might interview the mayor of the city, the next day report on a car accident, and the day after that preview a new movie.

Maximum number of participants: 12

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<p>MB178 Sat 2:00 PM ED 1100 Rachel Spradling</p>		<p>Nuclear Science Nuclear science gives us a simple explanation of the natural world. The ultimate goal of nuclear science is to find out if there is one fundamental rule that explains how matter and forces interact. Earning the Nuclear Science merit badge is a chance for Scouts to learn about this exciting field at the cutting edge of science today. Maximum number of participants: 10 Prerequisites: 2a, 7, 8</p>
<p>MB179 Sat 8:00 AM DRGS 2117 James Fisher</p>		<p>Oceanography The oceans cover more than 70 percent of our planet and are the dominant feature of Earth. Wherever you live, the oceans influence the weather, the soil, the air, and the geography of your community. To study the oceans is to study Earth itself. Maximum number of participants: 12 Prerequisites: 7 (recommend b or f) 8 (choose a, b, or c; come to class with evidence of completion) 9</p>
<p>MB182 Sat 10:00 AM Adam Levine</p>		<p>Personal Management Personal management is about mapping a plan for your life that will involve setting short-range and long-range goals and investigating different ways to reach those goals. Education, training, and experience all help make your goals become a reality. To achieve your goals, you will choose the best path and make a commitment to it, while remaining flexible enough to deal with changes and new opportunities. Maximum number of participants: 12 Prerequisites: 1, 2, 8, 9, 10</p>
<p>MB184 Sat 8:00 AM MGB 128 Frederick "Skip" Brady</p>		<p>Photography Beyond capturing family memories, photography offers a chance to be creative. Many photographers use photography to express their creativity, using lighting, composition, depth, color, and content to make their photographs into more than snapshots. Good photographs tell us about a person, a news event, a product, a place, a scientific breakthrough, an endangered animal, or a time in history. Maximum number of participants: 12 Prerequisites: 1b Scouts should use the Personal Safety Awareness training at https://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/scouts-bsa/</p>
<p>MB189 Sat 8:00 AM ED 1101 Emilee Stroup</p>		<p>Public Health The field of public health deals with maintaining and monitoring the health of communities, and with the detection, cure, and prevention of health risks and diseases. Although public health is generally seen as a community-oriented service, it actually starts with the individual. From a single individual to the family unit to the smallest isolated rural town to the worldwide global community, one person can influence the health of many. Maximum number of participants: 18</p>

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- MB190**
Sat 10:00 AM
Sat 2:00 PM
DRGS 2110
Kendra DiMichele
- 
- Public Speaking**
A lot happens during the course of every person's life and your ability to communicate your feelings and ideas is the best way to connect to the larger world. Even if you haven't stood at a podium on the stage and find the whole idea scary, sooner or later, someone is going to ask you to get up and say a few words. If you are prepared, it won't be scary. It can even be fun.
Maximum number of participants: 8
Prerequisites: 2- Scouts should be familiar with the requirements and be prepared to give several 3-5 minute speeches.
4 - Bring documentation of completion of Requirement 4 (note from an adult leader): "Select a topic of interest to your audience. Collect and organize information about the topic and prepare an outline. Write an eight- to 10-minute speech, practice it, then deliver it in a conversational way."
- MB192**
Sat 2:00 PM
MGB 128
Clarence Kalweit
- 
- Radio**
Radio is a way to send information, or communications, from one place to another. Broadcasting includes both one-way radio (a person hears the information but can't reply) as well as two-way radio (where the same person can both receive and send messages).
Maximum number of participants: 12
Prerequisites: 8, Look at 3 careers in radio and pick one to talk about.
- MB194**
Sat 2:00 PM
DRGS 2115
Jenica Smith
- 
- Reading**
If you have ever wanted to go back in time or wished you could visit the future, if you are curious about the world, or if you are interested in how things work or like to learn new things, these are all reasons why you should want to read. Reading is fascinating. It's full of surprises. And it will take you places you can't get to in any other way.
Maximum number of participants: 12
Prerequisites: 2, 3, 4, 5
- MB230**
Fri 6:00 PM
Sat 2:00 PM
CONST 1008
Georg Dahl, P.E.
- 
- Scouting Heritage**
Introduces boys to the history of the Boy Scouts of America. They'll learn it all - from Scouting's beginnings under Lord Baden-Powell to the history of their own troop.
Maximum number of participants: 12
Prerequisites: 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
- MB238**
Sat 8:00 AM
DRGS 2118
Nicole Holmes
- 
- Signs, Signals, and Codes**
American Sign Language (ASL) is the third most used language in the United States. The Signs, Signals, and Codes merit badge will cover Morse code, ASL, Braille, signaling, trail markings, and other nonverbal communications. Did you know that some of these have even saved people's lives?
Maximum number of participants: 12
Prerequisites: Plan to be outside

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MB206

Sat 2:00 PM
DRGS 2117
Peggy Sawyer



Soil and Water Conservation

Conservation isn't just the responsibility of soil and plant scientists, hydrologists, wildlife managers, landowners, and the forest or mine owner alone. It is the duty of every person to learn more about the natural resources on which our lives depend so that we can help make sure that these resources are used intelligently and cared for properly.

Maximum number of participants: 12

MB235

Sat 8:00 AM
DRGS 2120
Adam Goetz



Sustainability (2024 version)

Sustainability is an Eagle-required merit badge that'll teach you the incredibly important skill of conserving our planet's resources! In answering each of the requirements, you'll learn how to reduce your family's waste, protect our planetary systems, spread sustainability to others, and more.

Maximum number of participants: 20

MB212

Sat 2:00 PM
ED 1103
Kathy Lull



Textile

People use countless fibers and fabrics in their everyday lives: clothes, carpets, curtains, towels, sheets, upholstered furniture. Add to that list boat sails, book bindings, bandages, flags, sleeping bags, mailbags, airbags, seat belts, backpacks, parachutes, umbrellas, basketball nets, and more.

Maximum number of participants: 10

Prerequisites: 2a, 6, review all requirements

MB214

Sat 2:00 PM
DRGS 2104
Clark Walters



Traffic Safety

Staying safe in traffic wherever you live is getting more difficult all the time, as more and more people take to the road. Earning the Traffic Safety merit badge and will give Scouts some crucial tools to stay safer, when driving a car on a highway, riding a bike across town, or jogging across a busy street.

Maximum number of participants: 12

MB219

Sat 1:15 PM
Sat 8:00 AM
CONST 2099
Mary Jo Robins



Weather

Meteorology is the study of Earth's atmosphere and its weather and the ways in which temperature, wind, and moisture act together in the environment. In addition to learning how everyday weather is predicted, Scouts can learn about extreme weather such as thunderstorms, tornadoes, and hurricanes, and how to stay safe.

Maximum number of participants: 10