2026 Northern Lights District
Merit Badge Academy

Updated: 10-15-2026

Recommended Pre-work

** Please review the merit badges listed below for any prerequisites. Some requirements currently reflect the 2025 Merit Badge Academy and may be updated as 2026 counselors finalize their sessions. Check back regularly to ensure you're fully prepared. **

** We are expecting prerequisites for additional merit badges. Once received, they will be added to this list. **

American Indian Cultures

- *Counselor: Jason Krueger*
- Prerequisites (2026):
  - No prerequisites for this badge/session.

Automotive Maintenance

- *Counselor: Rick Outhouse*
- *Location: Wille Truck Service – transportation will be provided*
- Prerequisites (2026):
  - Review the below videos:
    - Resource: Automotive Repair Safety Observations (video)
    - Resource: Garage and Shop Safety Basics (video)
    - Resource: Difference Between Diesel and Gas Engines (video)
    - Resource: Different Types of Motors in Electric Vehicles (video)
    - Resource: Different Types of Hybrid Engines (video)
    - Resource: How Do Hydrogen Cars Work (video)
    - Resource: Working on High Voltage Vehicles (video)
    - Resource: Should I Follow the Manufacturer's Maintenance Schedule (video)
    - Resource: Tips on How to Pass State Inspection (video)
    - Resource: Vehicle Registration Near Me (video)
    - Resource: Your Car's Fluids (video)
    - Resource: How to Care for Your Automotive Battery (video)
    - Resource: How to Check & Properly Fill Water Levels in a Car Battery (video)
    - Resource: How to Check Car Fuses (video)
    - Resource: How to Inspect Belts (video)
    - Resource: How to Check Serpentine Belt (video)
    - Resource: How to Inspect Hoses (video)
    - Resource: How to Check Car Lights (video)
    - Resource: Basics of Automotive Lighting Systems (video)
    - Resource: Check and Change Air Filter (video)

- Resource: How to Read aTire (video)
- Resource: How to Properly Check and Fill Tires (video)
- Resource: Understanding Wheel Alignment Process (video)
- Resource: What is a TIre Wear Indicator Bar? (video)
- Resource: Knowing When to Replace Your Tires (video)
- Resource: Tires: How Do I Get Rid Of Them? (video)
- Resource: Engines 101: Basics of How Engines Work (video)
- Resource: Engines 101: How Does a Diesel Engine Work (video)
- Resource: How Hybrid Cars Work (video)
- Resource: API Motor Oil Ratings Explained (video)
- Resource: What Do SAE Grades Mean (video)
- Resource: Choosing the Correct Engine Oil (video)
- Resource: Role of Antifreeze/Coolant (video)
- Resource: Flushing and Filling Your Coolant System (video)
- Resource: How Air Filter Works (video)
- Resource: Animation Fuel Filter (video)
- Resource: How a Car Fuel Injection System Works Explained Step-by-Step! (video)
- Resource: Car Electrical System Explained (video)
- Resource: Automotive Starting and Charging System (video)
- Resource: The Role of Inverters for EV Propulsion Systems (video)
- Resource: Automotive Lighting Circuits (video)
- Resource: Explain Engine Firing Order | Automobile Engineering (video)
- Resource: What You Need to Know About Spark Plugs (video)
- Resource: How to Properly Jump Start a Car (video)
- Resource: Factors Affecting Range (video)
- Resource: Fundamentals of Automotive Electrical Systems (video)
- Resource: Ultimate Drive Train Guide (video)
- Resource: Manual vs Automatic (video)
- Resource: The Complexities of Today's Automatic Transmission Fluid (video)
- Resource: Which Fluids to Use (video)
- Resource: Ultimate Drive Train Guide (video)
- Resource: Understanding ABS (video)
- Resource: Drum vs Disc Brakes - What Are the Differences? (Which Is the Better Choice?) (video)
- Resource: How to Check Pads and Rotor (video)
- Resource: How to Negotiate and Buy a Used Car (video)
- Resource: How to Wax Your Car (video)
- Resource: How to Change a Flat Tire (video)
- Resource: Automotive Jobs: The Highest Paying Ones (video)
- Resource: Best Careers in the Automotive Industry (video)

Camping

- *Counselor: Cody Butcher*
- Prerequisites (2026):
    - **This is a partial merit badge session**, and Scouts may attend without completing the advance work. Scouts will receive credit for requirements completed during the clinic, while any

remaining requirements will be recorded as partials to complete later with an approved Camping merit badge counselor.

- Each Scout Should Bring
  - Camping merit badge worksheet or notebook: Camping Merit Badge Worksheet
  - Review the current requirements: Official Camping Merit Badge Requirements
  - Requirement 2: Be prepared to discuss the Outdoor Code and Leave No Trace Seven Principles.
  - Requirement 4a: Completed duty roster from an actual patrol campout. (One will be created in class as well)
  - Requirements 5 and 7: Personal and patrol equipment checklists for an actual overnight campout.
  - Requirement 8c: Completed seven-meal camp menu with:
    - Two breakfasts, three lunches, and two suppers
    - Recipes, quantities, and patrol food list
    - Food-protection and sanitation plan
    - Identified trail meal
- Scoutmaster-Verified Requirements
  - The counselor may approve Requirements 4b, 5e, 8d, and 9a–9c based on written Scoutmaster verification.
    - For each requirement, provide the applicable dates, locations, activities, and completion details. The verification must include the Scoutmaster's:
      - Printed name
      - Signature
      - Date signed
      - Phone number
    - Documentation should include:
      - 4b: Date, location, unit assisted, and how the Scout helped the patrol or Webelos Scout unit prepare for a campout.
      - 5e: Date and location where the Scout presented themself properly clothed and equipped for an overnight campout. Include the equipment checklist used.
      - 8d: Date and location; breakfast, lunch, and dinner cooked for the patrol; identified trail meal; and type of lightweight stove used. The meals must come from the Scout's submitted Requirement 8c menu. If the menu is created during the clinic, 8d must be completed afterward.
      - 9a: Camping log showing dates, locations, qualifying nights, shelter types, and Scouting units or events.
      - 9b: Dates, locations, activities completed, and applicable distances, duration, or elevation details.
      - 9c: Date, location, description of the conservation project, and confirmation of approval by the landowner or land-managing agency.
- Scouts must participate in the clinic discussions and hands-on activities to receive credit. Requirements without sufficient documentation, demonstration, or verification will remain partial.

Citizenship in the Community

- *Counselor: Jonathan Stevens*
- Prerequisites (2026):
  - 3. Do the following:

(a) Attend an in-person meeting of your city, town, or county council or school board, local court session; OR another state or local governmental meeting approved in advance by your counselor.

- Resource: How Does the US Court System Work? (video)
- Resource: What Do School Boards Do? (website)
- Resource: What Does My Local School Board Do? (video)
- Resource: How a City Council Meeting Works (video)
- Resource: Community Court (website)

- 4. Choose an issue that is important to the citizens of your community; then do the following:

(a) Find out which branch of local government is responsible for this issue.
(b) With your counselor's and a parent or guardian's approval, interview one person from the branch of government you identified in requirement 4(a). Ask what is being done about this issue and how young people can help.

- Resource: Tips and Tricks on Preparing and Conducting an Interview (video)

- 7. Do the following:

(a) Identify three charitable organizations outside of Scouting that interest you and bring people in your community together to work for the good of your community.

- Resource: How to Find the Best Charities (video)
- Resource: Charity Navigator (website)
- Resource: The Tax Exempt Organization Search Tool (website)
- Resource: Better Business Bureau (website)
- Resource: American Red Cross (website)
- Resource: Habitat for Humanity (website)
- Resource: The YMCA (website)

(b) Pick ONE of the organizations you chose for requirement 7(a). Using a variety of resources (including newspapers, flyers and other literature, the internet, volunteers, and employees of the organization), find out more about this organization.

- Resource: Finding a Good Charity (video)
- Resource: Volunteer Opportunities (website)
- Resource: Charity Navigator (website)
- Resource: Charity Ratings (website)
- Resource: Mobile Food Pantry Eagle Project (video)

(c) With your counselor's and your parent or guardian's approval, contact the organization you chose for requirement 7(b), and find out what young people can do to help. While working on this merit badge, volunteer at least eight hours of your time for the organization. After your volunteer experience is over, discuss what you have learned with your counselor.

- Resource: Benefits of Community Service (video)

Citizenship in the Nation

- *Counselor: Ryan Boley*
- Prerequisites (2026):
  - 5. Watch the national evening news for five days in a row or read the main stories in a national media organization (e.g., a newspaper or news website) for five days in a row. Discuss the national issues that you learned about with your counselor. Choose one issue and explain how it affects you, your family, and community.
  - 7. Do TWO of the following: 7a **or** 7b **or** 7c **or** 7d:

        - 7a. Visit a place that is listed as a National Historic Landmark or that is on the National Register of Historic Places. Tell your counselor what you learned about the landmark or site and what you found interesting about it.
        - 7b. Tour your state capitol building or the U.S. Capitol. Tell your counselor what you learned about the capitol, its function, and the history.
        - 7c. Tour a federal facility. Explain to your counselor what you saw there and what you learned about its function in the local community and how it serves this nation.
        - 7d. Choose a United States national monument that interests you. Using books, brochures, the internet (with your parent or guardian's permission), and other resources, find out more about the monument. Tell your counselor what you learned, and explain why the monument is important to this country's citizens.
    - 8. Name your representatives in the United States Congress. Write a letter to your representative in Congress explaining your views on a national issue. Show your letter, along with any response you receive, to your counselor.

Citizenship in the World

- *Counselor: Mike Fahey*
- Prerequisites (2026):
    - 3a. Pick a current world event. In relation to this current event, discuss with your counselor how a country's national interest and its relationship with other countries might affect areas such as its security, its economy, its values, and the health of its citizens.
    - 3b. Select a foreign country and discuss with your counselor how its geography, natural resources, and climate influence its economy and its global partnerships with other countries.
        - [Note: Scouts should come prepared to do a short, 10 minutes or less, presentation on their research about requirements 3a and 3b in front of the class.]
    - 7. Do TWO of the following (with your parent or guardian's permission) and share with your counselor what you have learned:
        - 7a. Visit the website of the U.S. State Department. Learn more about an issue you find interesting that is discussed on this website.
        - 7b. Visit the website of an international news organization or foreign government, OR examine a foreign newspaper available at your local library, bookstore, or newsstand. Find a news story about a human right realized in the United States that is not recognized in another country.
        - 7c. Visit with a student or Scout from another country and discuss the typical values, holidays, ethnic foods, and traditions practiced or enjoyed there.
        - 7d. Attend a world Scout jamboree.
        - 7e. Participate in or attend an international event in your area, such as an ethnic festival, concert, or play.

Communication

- *Counselor: Mark Miller*
- Prerequisites (2025):
    - 1a. For one day, keep a log in which you describe your communication activities. Keep track of the time and different ways you spend communicating, such as talking person-to-person, listening to teachers, listening to the radio or podcasts, watching television, using social media, reading books and other print media, and using any electronic communication device. Discuss with your counselor what your log reveals about the importance of communication in your life. Think of ways to improve your communication skills.

- 2a. Think of a creative way to describe yourself using, for example, a collage, short story or autobiography, drawing or series of photographs, or a song or skit. Using the aid you created, make a presentation to your counselor about yourself.
- 4. Interview someone you know fairly well, like, or respect because of his or her position, talent, career, or life experiences. Listen actively to learn as much as you can about the person. Then prepare and deliver to your counselor an introduction of the person as though this person were to be a guest speaker, and include reasons why the audience would want to hear this person speak. Show how you would call to invite this person to speak.
- 8. Plan a troop or crew court of honor, campfire program, or an interfaith worship service. Have the patrol leaders' council approve it, then write the script and prepare the program. Serve as master of ceremonies.

Competitive Gaming

- *Counselor: Nick Lawton*
- Prerequisites (2026):
  - See the worksheet in the attachments section of the event page (https://scoutingevent.com/620-NorthernLightsAcademy_Oregon_2026)
    - Complete the worksheet and bring it to the session's counselor.

Cybersecurity

- *Counselor: Shawn McCoy*
- Prerequisites (2026):
  - 4. Cyber Threats, Vulnerabilities, and Attacks. Do the following and discuss each with your counselor:
    - (b) Pick one type of malware (such as virus, worm, Trojan, backdoor, spyware, or ransomware) and find out how it works. Explain what it does and the harm it can cause.
      - Resource: Computer Malware (Article) | Cyber Attacks | Khan Academy (website)
      - Resource: Every Type of Computer Virus Explained in 8 Minutes (video)
      - Resource: 5 of the Worst Computer Viruses Ever (video)
    - (e) Current Events. Do ONE of the following:
      - (1) Read an article or a news report about a recent cybersecurity incident, such as a data breach or malware infection. Explain how the incident happened (to the best of your ability based on the information available) and what the consequences are or might be to the victim.
        - Resource: Featured Conversation Starters - Savvy Cyber Kids (website)
        - Resource: Krebs on Security - In-Depth Security News and Investigation (website)
        - Resource: Security News: Cybersecurity, Hacks, Privacy, National Security | WIRED (website)
        - Resource: Cybersecurity News, Insights and Analysis | SecurityWeek (website)
      - (2) With your parent or guardian's permission, watch a movie or read a book in which cybersecurity plays a significant role. Discuss how cybersecurity topics were depicted and how realistic you think it was.
        - Suggested Movies: WarGames (1983, PG), Tron (1982, PG), Code 2600 (2011 Documentary, PG), Superman III (1983, PG), Scooby-Doo and the Cyber Chase (2001, Not Rated), Cyber War 2022 (2023 Documentary, G), Hackers (1995, PG-13), Terms and Conditions May Apply (2013

Documentary, Not Rated), Cyber War (2016 Documentary, Not Rated), and Zero Days (2016 Documentary, PG-13).
        - Suggested Books: The Cuckoo's Egg by Cliff Stoll, Tom Clancy's Net Force Explorers YA series, The Enigma Girls: How Ten Teenagers Broke Ciphers, Kept Secrets, and Helped Win World War II by Candace Fleming, Cyber-Thief Showdown (Geronimo Stilton #68) by Geronimo Stilton, Little Brother by Cory Doctorow (read for free online), Cyberama: A Children's Book on Internet Safety and Cybersecurity, The Renegade Reporters by Elissa Brent Weissman, The Oracle Code by Marieke Nijkamp, Hacker by Malorie Blackman, and City Spies series by James Ponti.
- 5. Cyber Defenses. Do the following:
    - (b) Installing updates. Do the following:
        - [Take a screenshot.] 2. Demonstrate to your counselor how to check for, download, and install the latest updates for your computer or mobile device, or another computer you have permission to use. (If you are unable to do this on your computer, you may use an online guide with screenshots to demonstrate this.) Show your counselor how to verify that your computer or mobile device is up-to-date.
            - Resource: Keep Your Device's Operating System and Applications Up to Date | CISA (website)
    - [Take screenshots of your results] (c) **System security.** With your parent or guardian's permission, do THREE of the following using a computer or mobile device, and discuss with your counselor:
        - (1) Describe what makes a good password and why. Set or change an account password to one that is "strong."
            - Resources: How Not to Get Hacked: Passwords (video)
              Defense in Depth - Keys to Cybersecurity | Cyber.org (website)
            - Resources: Why Creating a Strong password Really Matters | Khan Academy (website)
            - Resources: Secure Your Secrets (website)
        - (2) Describe multi-factor authentication (MFA) and how it can be used to improve security. Demonstrate how to use an authenticator app or other MFA function.
            - Resources: Defense in Depth - Keys to Cybersecurity | Cyber.org (website)
            - Resources: Multi-factor Authentication | Khan Academy (website)
            - Resources: Multi-factor Authentication Facts (website)
        - (3) Install and set up a password manager. Demonstrate how it works to your counselor.
            - Resources: Yes, You Need a Password Manager. Here's Why | Khan Academy (website)
        - (4) Run a virus scan. Show the results to your counselor.
            - Resources: Understanding Anti-Virus Software | CISA (website)
            - Resources: Ensure Your OS Antivirus and Anti-Malware Protections are Active | CISA (website)
            - Resources: How to Start a Scan for Viruses or Malware in Microsoft Defender - Microsoft Support (website)
            - Resources: How to Run a Virus Scan on Windows 11: A Step-by-Step Guide - Solve Your Tech (website)
            - Resources: How to Scan an Android Phone for Malware - Android Authority (website)

        - Resources: MalwareBytes Free Virus Scanner (website)
        - Resources: Free Online Virus Scan | Trend Micro HouseCall | Trend Micro (US) (website)
    - (5) Using a command line or other built-in tool, see what programs or processes are running on your computer. Discuss with your counselor what you see and what surprises you.
        - Resources: How to View All Running Processes in Windows 10 & 11 (video)
        - Resources: How to Tell What's Running in the Background on Your PC (video)
        - Resources: View Information About Mac Processes in Activity Monitor - Apple Support (video)
        - Resources: Kill Apps and Processes on Chromebook Using the Task Manager (video)
        - Resources: How to Access Your Chromebook's Task Manager (video)
    - (6) Use a command line interface to view your computer's open network connections. Discuss the results with your counselor.
        - Resources: How to Use the Netstat Command (video)
        - Resources: How to Use the Netstat Command on Mac (website)
        - Resources: View Your Linux Server's Network Connections With Netstat | Opensource.com (website)
    - (7) Demonstrate how to back up your data from a mobile device to a local computer or the cloud.
        - Resource: Apple:
            - How to Back Up With iCloud - Apple Support (website)
            - How to Back up Your iPhone, iPad, and iPod Touch - Apple Support (website)
            - iCloud Data Security Overview - Apple Support (website)
        - Resource: Android:
            - Back Up or Restore Data on Your Android Device - Android Help (google.com) (website)
            - Back Up Your Device - Android - Google One Help (website)
    - (8) Research best practices for protecting a home computer or network, and make a checklist of FIVE things you and your family can do to stay secure.
        - Resource: How To Secure My Home WiFi Network (website)
        - Resource: Home Network Security | CISA (website)
        - Resource: Best Practices for Securing Your Home Network | NSA (PDF)
    - (9) Identify one or more other vulnerabilities on your home computer or network or another computer or network you have permission to use and discuss with your counselor. With permission from the system owner, take the necessary actions to fix it.
- 6. Cryptography. Do the following:
    - (c) Do ONE of the following:
        - (1) Create your own encryption code, such as a substitution cipher or code book, and demonstrate using it to encrypt and decrypt a message. Describe the strengths and weaknesses of your code.
          Resource: Encryption, Decryption, and Cracking | Khan Academy (website)
        - Resource: Symmetric Encryption Techniques | Khan Academy (website)
        - Resource: How to Create Substitution Ciphers: 9 Steps (With Pictures) (website)

- (2) Download and set up an app (from an official app store) that uses end-to-end encryption. Explain to your counselor what this means, how it works, and why it is more secure than other forms of communication (e.g. SMS).
    - Resource: The Best Private Messaging Apps for 2025 | PCMag (website)
    - Resource: The Best Encrypted Messaging Apps in 2025 | Tom's Guide (website)
    - Resource: The Seven Best Secure Messaging Apps With End-to-End Encryption | The Verge (website)
    - Resource: NSA Warning-Change Your iPhone and Android Message Settings (website)
- (3) Use a hashing tool (for example, using SHA or MD5) to create a checksum for a file, document, or piece of text. Have a fellow Scout or your counselor make a change to it, then recreate the checksum and compare the new checksum to the original as a demonstration of file integrity checking.
    - Resource: Hashing Algorithms and Security - Computerphile (video)
    - Resource: Online Hash Calculator - Online Tools (website)
    - Resource: How to Quickly Verify MD5, SHA1, and SHA2 (256, 384, 512) Checksum in Windows Using Command Prompt (video)
- (4) Create your own PGP (pretty good privacy) email key. Share your public key with others (and your counselor). Also, get their public keys and add them to your computer's key ring. Send a message that has been digitally encrypted.
    - Resource: PGP Encryption With Kleopatra - Kevin's Guides (website)
    - Resource: How to Use PGP/GPG Encryption - in 2 Minutes - PGP /GPG Tutorial for Beginners (video)

- 8. Cybersecurity Activities. Do ONE of the following:
    - (a) Learn about a cybersecurity competition, camp, or other activity you could participate in (either now or in the future). Share what you learned with your counselor, including the type of activity, time commitment, and age of participants.
        - Resource: CyberPatriot: National Youth Cyber Defense Competition (website)
        - Resource: AFA CyberCamps (website)
        - Resource: U.S. Cyber Camp (website)
        - Resource: National Cyber League (website)
    - (b) Participate in a cybersecurity competition with members of your troop, school, or some other group approved by your counselor. Either design your own competition or use an existing platform.
        - Resource: Cyber Challenge: Online Cybersecurity Game | Cybermission (website)
        - Resource: Cyber Threat Defender—The UTSA CIAS (website)
        - Resource: K-12 Cybersecurity Games—The UTSA CIAS (website)
        - Resource: picoCTF—CMU Cybersecurity Competition (website)
    - (c) Give a presentation to your patrol, troop, or another group approved by your counselor, on a cybersecurity topic of your choice. Your presentation must include at least one demonstration and/or hands-on activity.

Electricity

- *Counselor: Nick Malson-Huddle*
- Prerequisites (2025):
    - Purchase and bring a simple circuit kit similar to the following to the Merit Badge Academy: Simple Circuit Kit from Amazon

Emergency Preparedness

- *Counselor: Heather Timmerman*
- Prerequisites (2026):
    - 1. Emergency Situations. Do the following:
        - 1b. Using a chart, spreadsheet, or another method approved by your counselor, demonstrate your understanding of each aspect of emergency preparedness listed in requirement 1(a) (prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery) for 10 emergency situations from the list below. Discuss your findings with your counselor.
            - (1) Home stovetop or oven fire
                - Resource: How to Put Out a Stovetop Fire (video)
            - (2) Home flammable liquid fire
                - Resource: Flammable Liquids (video)
            - (3) Gas leak in or near a home or with outside cooking
                - Resource: What to Do If You Smell Gas (video)
                - Resource: How to Turn Off Main Gas Valve (video)
            - (4) Food poisoning
                - Resource: Stomach Flu and Food Poisoning (video)
                - Resource: Safe Food Handling (video)
                - Resource: How to Know If You Have Food Poisoning (video)
            - (5) Automobile crash
                - Resource: Responding to a Car Crash (video)
            - (6) Vehicle stalled in the desert
                - Resource: A Desert Survival Experience (video)
            - (7) Vehicle trapped in a blizzard
                - Resource: 6 Critical Tips You Need To Know in Order To Survive Being Stranded in Your Car in Freezing Temperatures (website w/ video)
            - (8) Backcountry injury
                - Resource: Patient Assessment (video)
                - Resource: Review of Traumatic Injuries with Wilderness First Aid (video)
            - (9) Boating or water accident
                - Resource: Preventing and Managing Boating Accidents (website)
            - (10) Toxic chemical spills and releases
                - Resource: Chemical Spill Preparedness (video)
                - Resource: Household Chemical Emergencies (website)
            - (11) Nuclear power plant emergency
                - Resource: How to Stay Safe in a Nuclear Emergency (video)
            - (12) Fire or explosion in a public place
                - Resource: How to Survive a Building Explosion (video)
                  How to Survive a Burning High-Rise (video)
            - (13) Violence in a public place
                - Resource: How To Respond to an Active Shooter (video)
            - (14) Wildland fire
                - Resource: If You Are Trapped by a Wildfire (video)
                - Resource: How To Prepare for Wildfires (website)
            - (15) Avalanche (snowslide or rockslide)
                - Resource: Survive an Avalanche (video)

        - Resource: How to Survive a Landslide (video)
    - (16) Earthquake
        - Resource: 10 Ways To Survive an Earthquake (video)
        - Resource: How To Prepare for an Earthquake (website)
    - (17) Tsunami
        - Resource: How to Survive a Tsunami (video)
    - (18) Major flooding or a flash flood with water outage
        - Resource: How To Survive a Flood (video)
        - Resource: How To Prepare for a Flood (website w/ video)
    - (19) Hurricane with power outage
        - Resource: How To Survive a Hurricane (video)
        - Resource: How To Prepare for a Hurricane (website w/ video)
    - (20) Tornado
        - Resource: How To Prepare for a Tornado (website)
        - Resource: TERRIFYING Tornado Scenarios: What You Should Do (video)
    - (21) Lightning storm
        - Resource: What Happens When You Are Struck by Lightning (video)
        - Resource: Backcountry Lightning Safety (website)
- **2. Planning for Family Emergencies. Do the following:**
    - (a) At a family meeting, discuss the situations on the chart you created for requirement 1(b) and make emergency plans for sheltering-in-place and for evacuation of your home. Discuss your family meeting and plans with your counselor.
        - Resource: How to Shelter in Place (video)
        - Resource: How to Evacuate From Wildfires (video)
    - (b) Develop and practice a plan of escape for your family in case of fire in your home. Draw a floor plan with escape routes and a map with a safe meeting place. Discuss your family's home escape plan with your counselor.
        - Resource: Home Fire Safety Checklist (PDF)
        - Resource: Home Fire Escape Plan (PDF)
        - Resource: Plan Your Escape: High-Rise Apartment Fire (video)
    - (c) Using a checklist in the *Emergency Preparedness* merit badge pamphlet or one approved by your counselor, prepare or inspect a family disaster kit for sheltering-in-place and for evacuation of your home. Review the needs and uses of the items in a kit with your counselor.
        - Resource: Checklist for Sheltering in Place (PDF)
        - Resource: Checklist for Evacuation (PDF)
        - Resource: Build a Kit (website)
        - Resource: Shelter in Place Drill Checklist (website)

First Aid

- *Counselor (full day session): Amy Steinmetz*
- Prerequisites (2026):
    - 2. Preparing for First Aid Emergencies. Do the following:
        - (b) Using checklists provided in the *First Aid* merit badge pamphlet or ones approved by your counselor, do the following:

        - Resource: Personal, Family, and Troop First Aid Kit Checklist (PDF)
        - (1) Assemble a personal first-aid kit for hiking and backpacking. Demonstrate the proper use of each item in your first-aid kit to your counselor.
    - Note: This badge was updated recently. We will strive to complete this badge during the day, but this may end up being a partial badge.

Leatherwork

- *Counselor: Ron Last*
- Prerequisites (2025):
    - 2. Explain the following:
        - 2a. Where leather comes from
            - Resource: How leather is made? (video)
        - 2b. Kinds of hides that are used to make leather
            - Resource: Picking the Best Part of the Leather Hide (video)
            - Resource: Using Leather Crafting Charts (website)
        - 2c. Five types of leather
            - Resource: Leather Is Made From Which Animal (video)
        - 2d. Best uses for each type of leather
            - Resource: What Leather Should I Use for Tooling? (video)
            - Resource: Choosing the Correct Leather for your Project (video)
    - 5. Do ONE of the following
        - 5a. Learn about the commercial tanning process. Report about it to your counselor.
            - Resource: How is Leather Made? (video)
        - 5b. Tan the skin of a small animal. Describe the safety precautions you will take and the tanning method that you used.
            - Resource: How to Tan Animal Hides (Never Destroy Animals for This Purpose) (video)
        - 5c. Recondition or show that you can take proper care of your shoes, a baseball glove, a saddle, furniture, or other articles of leather. Discuss with your counselor the advantages or disadvantages of leather vs. synthetic materials.
            - Resource: How to Clean & Shine Leather Shoes! (video)
            - Resource: How to Care for Your Baseball Glove (video)
            - Resource: How to Clean a Western Saddle (video)
            - Resource: How to Remove Mold and Mildew on Leather (video)
        - 5d. Visit a leather-related business. This could be a leathercraft supply company, a tannery, a leather goods or shoe factory, or a saddle shop. Report on your visit to your counselor.
            - Resource: A Random Walk Through Horween Leather (video)

Leather craft (*no merit badge/craft only*)

- *Counselor: Ron Last*
- *Craft: Knife sheath*
- Prerequisites (2026):
    - No prerequisites for this craft session.

Music

- *Counselor: Tim Wurgler*

- Prerequisites (2026):
    - No prerequisites for this badge/session.

Personal Fitness

- *Counselor: Bobby Gingerich*
- Prerequisites (2026):
    - **This is a partial merit badge session**, and Scouts may attend without completing the advance work. Scouts will receive credit for requirements completed during the clinic, while any remaining requirements will be recorded as partials to complete later with an approved Personal Fitness merit badge counselor.
    - 5. Pre-Assessment of Physical Fitness. Before beginning the 12-week program in requirement 7, do the following:
        - (a) Complete each of the assessments you defined in requirement 4, and record your results.
        - (b) Identify your weakest and strongest area of physical fitness, and choose an area to target for improvement.
        - (c) Keep a log of what you eat and drink for a period of three days.
            - Resource: 3-Day Food and Drink Log (fillable) (PDF)
        - (d) Based on your diet log, identify at least two improvement goals related to diet and nutrition.
            - Resource: Food Groups and MyPlate (video)
    - Requirement 6 & 7: Unless a scout has previously started these requirements, these will need to be completed after the Merit Badge Academy. Scouts are welcome to communicate with the Personal Fitness counselor of their choice once they've completed these requirements. If a scout has completed these in advance, please bring proof of completion to be reviewed by the counselor.
    - 8. Future Career or Lifestyle. Do ONE of the following:
        - (a) Explore three careers related to personal fitness. Research one career area by interviewing an expert in the field, visiting a site, or using other resources. Learn about training, education, expenses, job outlook, salary, and advancement. Discuss your findings and career interest with your counselor.
            - *Resource:* Careers Related to Personal Fitness (video)
        - (b) Explore how an area of personal fitness could contribute to a hobby or healthy lifestyle. Research education, costs, and organizations related to this activity. Discuss your findings and goals with your counselor.
            - Resource: Seated Wheelchair Workout (video)
            - Resource: Seated Cardio Workout (video)

Personal Management

- *Counselor: Morgan Lowery*
- Prerequisites (2026):
    - 2. Do the following:
        - (a) Prepare a budget reflecting your expected income (allowance, gifts, wages), expenses, and savings for a period of 13 consecutive weeks.
            - Resource: How To Create a Budget for Beginners (video)
            - Resource: Budgeting Basics (video)
        - (b) Compare expected income with expected expenses.
            - (1) If expenses exceed budget income, determine steps to balance your budget.

            - (2) If income exceeds budget expenses, state how you would use the excess money (new goal, savings).
        - (c) Track and record your actual income, expenses, and savings for 13 consecutive weeks (the same 13-week period for which you budgeted). (You may use the forms provided in the *Personal Management* merit badge pamphlet, devise your own, or use a computer-generated version.) When complete, present the records showing the results to your counselor.
        - (d) Compare your budget with your actual income and expenses to understand when your budget worked and when it did not work. With your counselor, discuss what you might do differently the next time.
    - 8. Demonstrate to your counselor your understanding of time management by doing the following:
        - Resource: Time Management for Teens (video)
        - (a) Write a to-do list of tasks or activities, such as homework assignments, chores, and personal projects, that must be done in the coming week. List these in order of importance to you.
            - Resource: Work Smart: How To Write a To-Do List (video)
        - (b) Make a seven-day calendar or schedule. Put in your set activities, such as school classes, sports practices or games, jobs or chores, and/or Scout or place of worship or club meetings, then plan when you will do all the tasks from your to-do list between your set activities.
            - Resource: Master Time Management Tips for Teens (video)
        - (c) Follow the one-week schedule you planned. Keep a daily diary or journal during each of the seven days of this week's activities, writing down when you completed each of the tasks on your to-do list compared to when you scheduled them.
        - (d) With your counselor, review your to-do list, one-week schedule, and diary/journal to understand when your schedule worked and when it did not work. Discuss what you might do differently the next time.
    - 10. Do the following:
        - (a) Choose a career you might want to enter after high school or college graduation. Discuss with your counselor the needed qualifications, education, skills, and experience.
            - Resource: Explore Career Possibilities (website)
            - Resource: Career Search: Pursuing Passion (video)
            - Resource: The Cost of Education Careers and Education (video)
            - Resource: 10 Ways To Pay for College (website)
        - (b) Explain to your counselor what the associated costs might be to pursue this career, such as tuition, school or training supplies, and room and board. Explain how you could prepare for these costs and how you might make up for any shortfall.

Photography

- *Counselor: Kathy Krasny*
- Prerequisites (2026):
    - Pending

Search and Rescue

- *Counselor (full day session): Paul Hughes*
- Prerequisites (2026):
    - No prerequisites for this badge/session.

Sustainability

- *Counselor: Laura Harm*
- Prerequisites (2025):
  - Read and review the Sustainability Merit Badge pamphlet
  - Download and print the Sustainability Merit Badge worksheet
  - Bring the following items to this session: printed and partially completed workbook, Sustainability merit badge pamphlet (printed or digital), pen/pencil, Scout Handbook, positive attitude and Scout spirit.
    - This workbook is a helpful tool for organizing your thoughts and recording your research. Remember, you still need to read the pamphlet to understand the concepts thoroughly.
  - 1. Describe the meaning of sustainability in your own words. Explain the importance of sustainability to society and how you can contribute to fulfilling the needs of current generations without compromising the needs of future generations.
    - Watch: Sustainability Overview (use this to help you complete Requirement 1)
  - 6a. Create a list of 15 items of your personal "stuff." Classify each item as an essential need (such as soap) or a desirable want (such as a video game). Identify any excess "stuff" you no longer need, working with your family, if possible. Donate, repurpose, or recycle those items you can.
    - Watch: Why do we have so much stuff? (fill out the chart for requirement 6a after viewing)
  - 8a. On a campout or other outdoor Scouting activity that you attend, make notes on the sustainability practices you and your fellow Scouts practice. Observe transportation, forestry, soil conservation, water resources, habitat, buildings, campsites, and sanitation. Share what you observed and learned with your counselor.
    - Watch: Sustainable camping tips (complete the workbook questions for this section)
  - 8b. Discuss with your counselor how living by the Scout Oath, Scout Law, Leave No Trace Seven Principles and the Outdoor Code in your daily life helps promote sustainability.
    - Watch: Sustainability in your life (complete the workbook questions for this section)
  - 9. Learn about career opportunities in the sustainability field. Pick one and find out the education, training, and experience required. Discuss what you have learned with your counselor and explain why this career might interest you.
    - Watch: Career paths in sustainability and Green jobs
      - Fill in your responses and reflections.

Wilderness Survival

- *Counselor: Jerry Noel*
- Prerequisites (2025):
  - 5. Put together a personal survival kit and be able to explain how each item in it could be useful.
    - [Note: Scouts should bring their personal survival kit to the Merit Badge Academy.]
  - 6. Using three different methods (other than matches), build and light three fires.
    - [Note: Bring a note from your Scoutmaster attesting to the completion of this requirement.]
  - 8. Improvise a natural shelter. For the purpose of this demonstration, use techniques that have little negative impact on the environment. Spend a night in your shelter.
    - [Note: Bring a note from your Scoutmaster attesting to the completion of this requirement.]

Wildland Fire Management

- *Counselor: Dylan Bell*
- Prerequisites (2026):
    - Pending