

GREATER HUDSON VALLEY COUNCIL'S 9TH ANNUAL

# MERIT BADGE COLLEGE

## PARTICIPANT GUIDE



JOHN JAY HIGH SCHOOL HOPEWELL JUNCTION, NY

# Merit Badge College 2026

**Registration: 7:45AM – 8:30AM**

**Opening Ceremony: 8:30AM**

9am-10am	10am-11am	11am - 12pm	12pm - 1pm	1pm - 2pm	2pm - 3pm	3pm - 4pm	4pm - 5pm
Citizenship in the Community				Citizenship in the Community			
Citizenship in the Community				Citizenship in the Community			
Citizenship in the Nation				Citizenship in the Nation			
Citizenship in the Nation				Citizenship in the Nation			
Citizenship in the World				Citizenship in the World			
Citizenship in the World				Citizenship in the World			
Communication				Communication			
Communication				Communication			
Chess				American Culture			
Disabilities Awareness (9-11:30am)				Disabilities Awareness (12-2:30pm)		Physics (Test Lab Merit Badge)	
				American Business			
Fire Safety				First Aid			
Art						Aviation	
Artificial Intelligence						Programming	
Textiles						Genealogy	
Digital Technology						Photography	
			American Heritage			Scouting Heritage	
			Crime Prevention			Law	
			Coin Collecting			Health Care Professions	
Pets						Art	
Entrepreneurship				Engineering			
Public Speaking				Public Speaking			
Scholarship				Safety		Journalism	
Sustainability						Weather	
Music			Salesmanship				

## **MERIT BADGE COLLEGE**

The Merit Badge College is an opportunity to learn from subject matter experts in career or lifelong hobby subjects.

The purpose of the Merit Badge College (MBC) is to offer Scouts an opportunity to meet with merit badge counselors from across the Greater Hudson Valley Council to learn and foster the development of lifelong interests. Particular emphasis is given to career and Eagle required Merit Badges (MB), especially those MB's with a limited availability of counselors.

**Earning a MB is not guaranteed. No MB requirements will be excused; none will be "gifted".** The unit leader must ensure that each Scout is capable of understanding the material of the MB he/she has chosen. Specific Merit Badges being offered are subject to change based on counselor availability. **Your MB counselor will reach out to you shortly after registration.** Prerequisites, projects or other outside work must be sent to MB counselor no later than March 10<sup>th</sup>. A note from the Scoutmaster or a signed prior partial MB Card may also be used as proof of prerequisite completion.

Scouts should secure and review the appropriate Merit Badge Pamphlets (Read the Book!!) Prerequisite information and course catalogs can be found on the Greater Hudson Valley Council website under Merit Badge College and have also been listed in the catalog.

**All Work and/or Worksheets for each Merit Badge prerequisite item must be completed before arrival at the Merit Badge College** – Worksheets are available at <http://usscouts.org/mb/worksheets/list.asp> , plus links to each WB is provided in each MB page. Scouts who do not complete the prerequisites prior to the MBC may receive a partial. The Merit Badge Counselor has the discretion to determine if the Scout has met the requirements.

**Scoutbook is recommended for the Merit Badge College, but if using a Blue Card, Scouts must bring a signed blue card with them to the Merit Badge College. Blue cards will not be available at the Merit Badge College!**

**This is a CLASS A event.** All Scouts and Scout Leaders should demonstrate their Scout Spirit in word and deed. Please wear your uniform.

**Cell Phones - A Scout is Courteous** - If you must have a cell phone, set it to silent/vibrate. Demonstrate respect for the instructors and other classmates and do NOT make or take calls or text messages during class time.



# GUIDANCE FOR SCOUTS ATTENDING THE MBC

## 1.) Pick a Merit Badge

From the Course Catalog, you can select a number of Merit Badges that you have an interest in taking. We expect that you will talk to your Scoutmaster and parents about which badge to take. But in the end, you should select a topic that you truly wish to learn about. Don't let rank advancement be the only consideration.

## 2.) Consider Your Age

In the short duration of a single day, experience has taught us that the nature and amount of material covered in these classes can make it difficult for a younger Scout to keep up. This then slows the pace of the class and the class will not complete in the intended material. This may also cause the younger scout to get frustrated or anxious. Therefore, we have age minimums for a number of our classes. We want you to enjoy what you do here so you will do it well. Please double check the courses you are considering by referring to the Difficulty Level Document.

## 3.) Getting Ready for MBC Day (Read the book) / Complete the Worksheet and any assignments!

OK. So, you have selected your badges and registered online. Congratulations! The next thing that you should do, if you have not already done so, is to get a copy of the Merit Badge pamphlet for yourself. You should **read through the pamphlet so that you are completely familiar with it.** In fact you may want to read it through more than once. **(Read the book.)** We do not guarantee that you will complete any badge. Many MB classes will have published a list of pre-requisites. These are requirements that you must complete by March 10<sup>th</sup>.

Please remember to also bring all material to class with you such as notes, pictures, writings, reports, letters. **(Email your counselor and read the book.)** It is up to you to make sure that you complete every requirement. Some requirements may by their nature not be doable in a classroom. You should at least attempt to complete these before the MBC. If you can do this, then you will get the most out of the workshop.

**Again, worksheets for each Merit Badge prerequisite item must be completed before arrival at the Merit Badge College – Worksheets are available at**

<http://usscouts.org/mb/worksheets/list.asp>

## 4.) Blue Merit Badge Cards

Before attending MBC, counselors will advise if Physical or Scoutbook Blue Cards are preferred. If you do not hear from your counselor prior to MBC, bring a **Signed** paper Blue Card with you.

Scoutbook Blue Cards – Scouts need to advise either their scoutmaster, advancement chair or parent to initiate a link between the counselor and scout in Scoutbook to create a Blue Card in Scoutbook. Here's a helpful video to assist and answer any questions.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lwtXuzveK9k>

Paper Blue Cards – scouts should fill out the blue card with your name, address, Merit Badge and Troop information. Your Scoutmaster should sign this card indicating that they

approve you taking the class. Keep it safe since this card will be the ONLY record of your achievement at the MBC. Counselors are not required to keep records. Most will, but some will not. You are responsible for your card. Keep it safe.

**Instructions for scoutmaster, advancement chair or others with access the Merit Badge Counselor list in Scoutbook.**

1. Go to [www.Scoutbook.com](http://www.Scoutbook.com) and log in with your [my.scouting.org](http://my.scouting.org) credentials
2. Go to your Troops home page, go the merit badge counselor list, select merit badge, input proximity and availability criteria, click search.
3. Locate counselor, click and establish a link between the scout and counselor.

**Instructions for Parents to link their scout with a merit badge counselor**

1. Go to [www.Scoutbook.com](http://www.Scoutbook.com) and log in with your [my.scouting.org](http://my.scouting.org) credentials
2. Click - My Dashboard
4. Click - Administration
3. Click on Name of scout in "My Family" section.
5. Click on Scouts "Advancement"
6. Click on "Start another Merit Badge"
7. Click "Start a Badge"
8. Click desired Merit Badge
9. Click "Invite Counselor"
10. Click "Add+"
11. Either search for existing counselor or input, first and last name, gender, relationship, email and adding a note is optional. Then click invite.

We recommend using ScoutBook blue cards whenever possible. Scoutbook is a part of the Scouting America Internet Advancement system, which means that entering an advancement record in Scoutbook is the same as entering it in Internet Advancement. Anyone with a Scouting America member ID automatically has access to a Scoutbook account through their [my.scouting.org](http://my.scouting.org) account.

**5.) On MBC Day, FILL YOUR LIFE WITH ADVENTURE!**

**6.) PROPER SCOUT BEHAVIOR IS EXPECTED. EACH SCOUT IS AN AMBASSADOR TO THE HOST SCHOOL AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF YOUR HOME TROOP. Scoutmasters and Parents will be advised if a scout's behavior is not "Scout-like". Scouts may be removed from Merit Badge sessions with no refund or partial credit given. In order not to disrupt classes, Scouts are to be in one of two places throughout the day – in your assigned class or in the cafeteria. Scouts are not permitted roam the halls during free time.**

## CHOOSING THE RIGHT MERIT BADGES BASED ON DEGREE OF DIFFICULTY

We want all scouts to enjoy their time at Merit Badge College, and have created the following to help you select the most appropriate courses.

This is a guide, older scouts can feel free to take courses listed for younger scouts, but the badges are available to the **minimum** age as shown.

### Level 1 – New Scouts / Minimum Ages 10 ½ - 11, & up

Art	Chess
Crime Prevention	Digital Technology
Fire Safety	Pets
Physics (*test lab, see page 10)	Textile
Weather	

### Level 2 – Second Class / Minimum Ages 11 – 13, & Up

Artificial Intelligence (AI)	Coin Collecting
Disabilities Awareness	Genealogy
Health Care Professions	Law
Music	Photography
Programming	Safety
Salesmanship	Scholarship (age 12+)
Scouting Heritage	

### Level 3 – First Class and Star / Minimum Ages 13 & Up

American Culture	American Heritage
<b><i>Citizenship in the Community</i></b> *	<b><i>Citizenship in the Nation</i></b> *
Engineering	<b><i>First Aid</i></b> *
Journalism	Public Speaking
<b><i>Sustainability</i></b> *	

### Level 4 – Star and Life / Ages 14 and Up / 8th Grade and Up

American Business	Aviation
<b><i>Citizenship in the World</i></b> *	<b><i>Communication</i></b> *
Entrepreneurship	

***\*Eagle Required Merit Badge***

## **GUIDANCE FOR PARENTS**

The Merit Badge College is an opportunity for your Scout to explore various subject matters, working with experts in career or lifelong hobby subjects. We appreciate you bringing your scout to us for what we hope will be a great day!

We will be grateful to have you assist your Scout (if needed) in the check-in process and then send them off to their class.

### ***No Parents in Class Rooms.***

*We especially appreciate it if you have traveled a distance to get here and would prefer not to go home and come back. Parents will not be permitted to “sit in” on a Merit badge class, this will be distracting both the Scouts and the Counselors. We ask that you stay in the cafeteria if you choose to stay on site while your scout is attending a class. If your scout requires special attention, please note that in their registration and reach out to Eric Louis at [eric.louis@scouting.org](mailto:eric.louis@scouting.org).*

*Please plan to drop off your scout and be prompt in picking them up at the end of their scheduled sessions.*

### **INCLEMENT WEATHER**

Although we hope for good weather conditions, in case of severe snowfall and/or inclement weather, please check the council website for information. We will utilize similar school closing guidelines in making the decision to cancel the Merit Badge College.

**PLEASE NOTE: Due to the number of counselors and staff, we will do our best to reschedule or refund fees in the event of inclement weather closure.**

**Outside of the Council cancelling the event, there are no refunds available for this event starting March 6th.**

You may view the council refund policy here: [www.ghvscouting.org/refundpolicy](http://www.ghvscouting.org/refundpolicy)

# Merit Badge Prerequisites

We will be sharing class lists with our counselors a few days after the opening of registration, and they will reach out to you if you are signed up for the class. Please make sure that you communicate with your merit badge counselors for any requirements that require your counselor's prior approval.

For merit badges classes with multiple sessions, the instructors for that class will make the final determination on what they will require as a prerequisite.

- **American Business**
  - #1(b), #1(d), #4, #5, #6
- **American Culture**
  - #1, #4, #5
- **American Heritage**
  - #1, #2 (Two Choices), #3, #4 (Two Choices), #5 (One Choice)
- **Art**
  - #1, #2, #4, #5, #6, #7
- **Artificial Intelligence**
  - TBD
- **Aviation**
  - #4, #5(e)
- **Chess**
  - #3
- **Citizenship in the Community**
  - #2, #3, #4, #5, #7, #8
- **Citizenship in the Nation**
  - #5, #7, #8
- **Citizenship in the World**
  - #4, #7
- **Coin Collecting**
  - #4, #7
- **Communication**
  - #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6, #7, #8
- **Crime Prevention**
  - None
- **Digital Technology**
  - #1, #5b, #5c, #6, #8, #9
  - (Note: options #6d, 6g, and 6h require prior counselor approval)
- **Disabilities Awareness**
  - #2, #3, #4, #5
- **Engineering**
  - #1, #2, #5
- **Entrepreneurship**
  - #3, #4, #5

- **Fire Safety**
  - #6(a-h)
- **First Aid**
  - #2a, #2b (bring 1<sup>st</sup> Aid Kit to class), #15
- **Genealogy**
  - #1, #2, #3, #6, #7
- **Health Care Professions**
  - TBD
- **Journalism**
  - #2, #3, #4, #5
- **Law**
  - #4, #6, #7, Read Pamphlet and be prepared to discuss all.
- **Music**
  - #1, #3 (Choice of Two), #4 (Choice of One)
- **Pets**
  - #1, #2, #3, #4
  - Be prepared for discussion.
- **Photography**
  - #1b, #4, #5, #6, #7
- **Physics**
  - None
  - This is a test lab merit badge. For more information on Scouting America Test Badges please visit: <https://www.scouting.org/skills/merit-badges/test-lab/>
- **Programming**
  - #1(a), 5
- **Public Speaking**
  - #1, #2, #4, #5
- **Safety**
  - None
- **Salesmanship**
  - #3, #4, #6
- **Scholarship**
  - #1, #2, #3, #4, #5
- **Scouting Heritage**
  - #2, #5, #6, #7, #8
- **Sustainability**
  - #1, #2 thru #6 (1 of each), #8a
- **Textile**
  - None
- **Weather**
  - #9(a) or #9(b), #10

# Merit Badge Requirements

A full list of merit badge requirements can be found at <https://www.scouting.org/skills/merit-badges/all/>. Individual merit badge requirements can be found below.

- **American Business:** <https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/american-business/>
- **American Culture:** <https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/american-cultures/>
- **American Heritage:** <https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/american-heritage/>
- **Art:** <https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/art/>
- **Artificial Intelligence:** <https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/artificial-intelligence/>
- **Aviation:** <https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/aviation/>
- **Chess:** <https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/chess/>
- **Citizenship in the Community:** <https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/citizenship-in-the-community/>
- **Citizenship in the Nation:** <https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/citizenship-in-the-nation/>
- **Citizenship in the World:** <https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/citizenship-in-the-world/>
- **Coin Collecting:** <https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/coin-collecting/>
- **Communication:** <https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/communication/>
- **Crime Prevention:** <https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/crime-prevention/>
- **Digital Technology:** <https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/digital-technology/>
- **Disabilities Awareness:** <https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/disabilities-awareness/>
- **Engineering:** <https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/engineering/>
- **Entrepreneurship:** <https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/entrepreneurship/>
- **Fire Safety:** <https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/fire-safety/>
- **First Aid:** <https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/first-aid/>
- **Genealogy:** <https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/genealogy/>
- **Health Care Professions:** <https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/health-care-professions/>
- **Journalism:** <https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/journalism/>
- **Law:** <https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/law/>
- **Music:** <https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/music/>
- **Pets:** <https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/pets/>
- **Photography:** <https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/photography/>
- **Physics:** <https://www.scouting.org/skills/merit-badges/test-lab/physics/>
- **Programming:** <https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/programming/>
- **Public Speaking:** <https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/public-speaking/>
- **Safety:** <https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/safety/>
- **Salesmanship:** <https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/salesmanship/>

- **Scholarship:** <https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/scholarship/>
- **Scouting Heritage:** <https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/scouting-heritage/>
- **Sustainability:** <https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/sustainability/>
- **Textile:** <https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/textile/>
- **Weather:** <https://www.scouting.org/merit-badges/weather/>

# Other GHV Merit Badge Opportunities:

- Bullowa Day Camp:
  - [Bullowa Day Camp, week 1](#) (July 6 - 10 2026)
  - [Bullowa Day Camp, week 2](#) (July 13 - 17 2026)
  - [Bullowa Day Camp, week 3](#) (July 20 - 24, 2026)
  - [2026 Schedule of classes](#)
  - [Information Packet](#)
- Eagle & Specialty Badge Week at Bullowa:
  - Session 1 [Eagle Camp 1](#) (July 27 - 29, 2026)
  - Session 2 [Eagle Camp 2](#) (July 30 - 31, 2026)
  - [Merit Badge Offering List](#)
  - [Information Packet](#)
- Read Scout Reservation:
  - [Read Sumer Camp, week 1](#) (July 5 – 11, 2026)
  - [Read Sumer Camp, week 2](#) (July 12 – 18, 2026)
  - [Read Sumer Camp, week 3](#) (July 19 – 25, 2026)
  - [Read Sumer Camp, week 4](#) (July 26 – August 1, 2026)
  - [Read Sumer Camp, week 5](#) (August 2 – 8, 2026)
  - [Leader's Guide](#)

