

5th Annual Merit Badge University

Participant and Leader Guide

28 March 2020



Hosted by

University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
Edinburg, Texas

Sponsored by

Boy Scouts of America - Rio Grande Council
UTRGV Engineering & Computer Science Student Advisory Council

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Greetings

Welcome to Merit Badge University sponsored by the Rio Grande Council of the Boys Scouts of America and the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley Engineering & Computer Science Student Advisory Council. Scouts can attend up to 2 merit badge sessions from a list of approximately 30 merit badges courses. This event could not be accomplished without a dedicated team.

I would like to thank and acknowledge the members of the Merit Badge University organizing committee: Sharon Cavazos, Alyssa Carrizales, Daniel Flores, Robert MacEachern, Joel Salinger, Doug Timmer, Isabel Stroop, Gerardo Rodriguez, Paula Rios, and Homer Rios. A big thank you to our BSA Rio Grande Council Staff for their continued support and participation: Luis Rodriguez and Council Executive, Rudy Gonzales.

Additionally, I would like to thank all our volunteers who offered their time to serve as merit badge counselors, leadership, and assistants during the event.

Thank you for your participation in the 5th Annual Merit Badge University!

With appreciation,

Rachel Martinez
MBU Chairperson
rachelmtz_scouting@yahoo.com

Merit Badge University

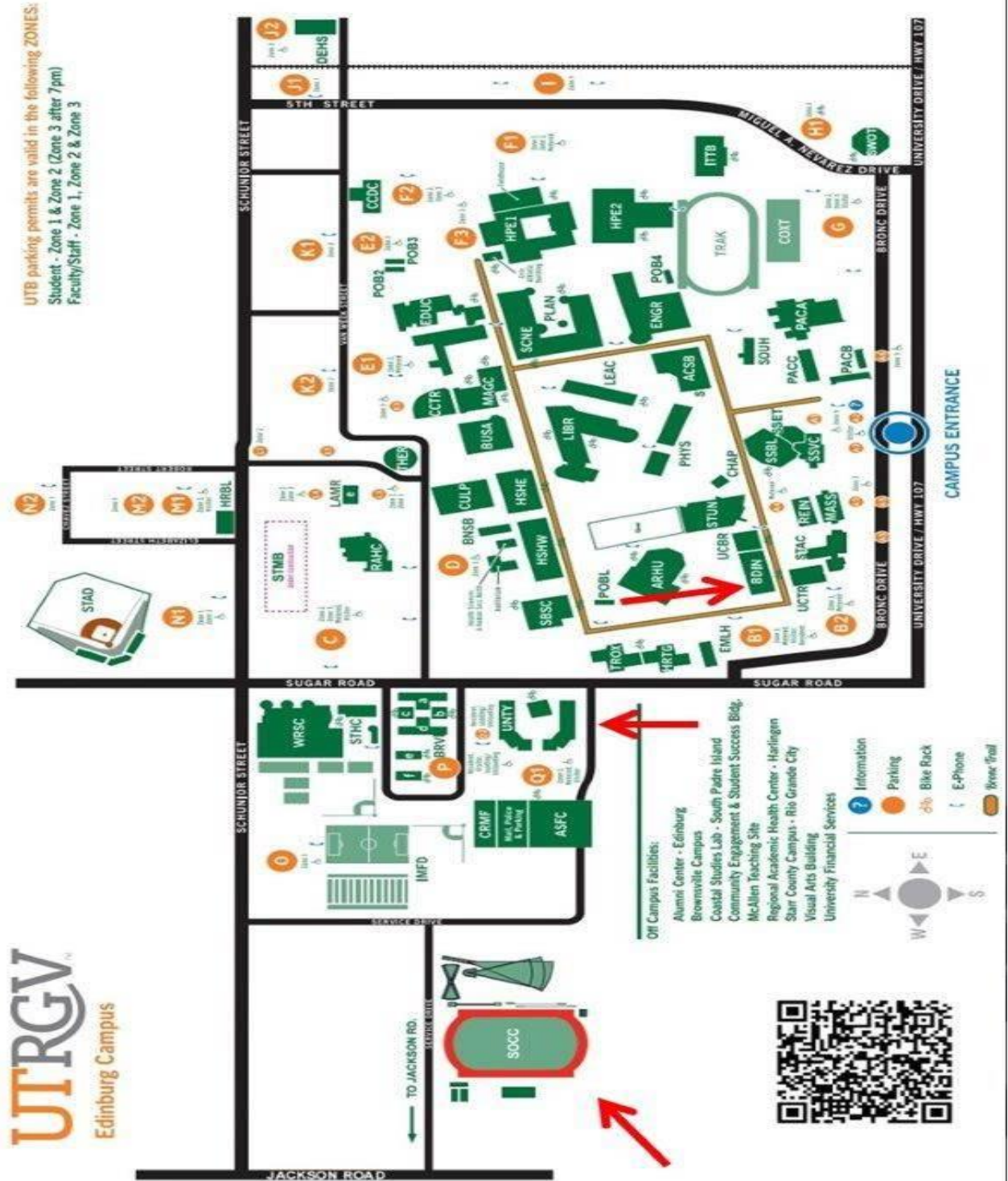
Saturday, 28 March 2020

1201 W. University Drive

Edinburg, TX. 78539

Engineering Building

UTRGV Campus Map



Registration and Policy

\$30 Registration fee includes: MBU patch, workbooks, snacks, and lunch

*Registration: Feb 1 - March 7 MBU shirt included

*Registration: March 8 – 23 MBU shirt **NOT** included

Registration ends: March 23 @ 11:55 PM

- BEFORE registering, the scout should speak with their Scoutmaster about attending MBU and the merit badges courses to take.
- Registration is on a first come basis.
- The scout or parent/guardian must register through the Rio Grande Council website.
- MBU Fee is \$30.00 and includes:
Two 4-hour merit badge courses, merit badge workbooks, course schedule, returnable name tag with lanyard and holder, MBU patch, snacks, and lunch. T-Shirt included with registrations by March 7th.
- Double-Knot charges a convenience fee that is not associated with MBU.
- Merit Badges that have additional fee for supplies.
Space Exploration is an additional \$10. Electronics is an additional \$10.
- Merit badges not completed at MBU will earn partial credit for the scout.
- Merit Badge Blue Cards will **NOT** be used. A printout reflecting *Partial and Completed Merit Badge(s)* will be emailed to the Scoutmaster within 2 weeks.
- Late registration or schedule changes will **NOT** be done at MBU.
- Merit Badges offered may be canceled or possibly changed due to events beyond MBU control. (Example: Instructor gets sick, dies, or has a family matter requiring their immediate attention.)

Refund Policy

The Rio Grande Council Scout Executive reserves the authority to grant refunds and will consider each request on a case by case basis.

Replacement Scout Policy

- A scout who registers for MBU but cannot attend may be replaced with another scout. The replacement scout will be responsible for reimbursing the originally registered scout.
- The replacement scout will be limited to taking the same merit badges for which the original scout was registered.
- Any replacement scouts known prior to MBU event date will email drcav@swbell.net, the scoutmaster, and Troop Adult Contact for efficiency purposes.
- Upon checking in, the Troop Adult Contact (TAC) will notify the MBU staff of replacements
- T-shirt size ordered for original participant cannot be changed.

MBU Cancellation

MBU will be cancelled in the event of severe weather and emails will be sent.

(Examples of severe weather are the following forecasts on the day of MBU, in the area: Tornadoes; 1 inch or more of rain per hour/severe flooding; and high winds and hail.)

Merit Badge Results

Merit badge completions and partials will be documented and submitted to each participating troop scoutmaster via email within two weeks of MBU. Questions or concerns are to be sent to Dr. Sharon Cavazos at drcav@swbell.net or 956/793-2815.

Completing Merit Badge Partials

Scouts are responsible for completing the requirements not fulfilled during MBU. The scout should contact the merit badge counselor to discuss the completed requirement. The scout may show the completed requirement to their troop Merit Badge Coordinator for documentation of completion.

MBU Schedule

7:00 am *Check in at the Engineering Building (see map on page 4)
 *Troop Adult Contact should check in and pick up troop packet
 *Troop Adult Contact (TAC) will collect patches for attending scouts.
 *TAC will collect shirts for scouts that placed orders during early registration
 (March 7th was deadline).

8:00 am Opening ceremony in the Engineering Building Auditorium
 for all participants and adults

8:25 am Scouts, Counselors, and two-deep leaders will report to assigned classroom for
 their morning session

8:30 am *Morning session begins
 *Merit badge workbooks will be provided to each scout
 *A managed break will be given with snack and water available to scouts
 during the morning session

12:30 pm * Morning session ends
 * Lunch in lobby area

1:00 pm * Report to Auditorium for Guest Speaker

1:30 pm *Lunch ends
 * Scouts, Counselors, and two-deep leadership report to assigned classroom
 *Merit Badge worksheet booklet will be provided to each scout
 *A managed break will be given with snack and water available to scouts
 during the afternoon session

5:30 pm *Afternoon Session Ends
 * Merit Badge University closed
 *All scouts report to their Troop Adult Contact (TAC) for dismissal

Troop Adult Contact (TAC) Requirements

Troop Adult Contacts (TAC) are the conduit between the MBU staff and scouts.

At least one TAC per troop must be present throughout the entire event. The TAC may be scoutmasters, assistant scoutmasters, committee members, or adult volunteers that the scoutmaster trusts to respond to problems or issues that may arise with troop members attending MBU. TACs may not be teaching or assisting in a merit badge class at the same time they are serving as TAC. All scouts are to report to the designated area in the morning and wait for the TAC to provide lanyards with schedules. Scouts will NOT be allowed in check-in area or be able to pick up scout packets.

TAC Responsibilities

- *Signing in for their Troop. Pick up lanyards with Scout's scheduled Merit Badge Classes, patches & T-shirts (for those Scouts that ordered by March 7th). Distribute lanyards to their Scouts after checking in.
- *Provide their **cell phone number (CPN)** to the MBU Staff. The names and times of relief and CPN of any other adults that are taking over the TAC responsibility later that day.
- *There must be at least one TAC per troop throughout the entire event.
- *Supporting and enforcing LEAVE NO TRACE.
- *Medical binders not required. If medications are to be administered, you may turn them in to MBU nurse and must be properly labeled for designated scouts.
- *Notify MBU Staff of any Scout Replacements and who they are replacing upon check in.
- *Ensure their scouts know who the Troop Adult Contact is for MBU to avoid confusion.
- *Maintain a presence at MBU. Assist with issues while troop members are in attendance.
- *Monitor attendance and early departure of scouts.
- *Sign in and confirm CPN when relieving an outgoing TAC.
- *Signing out upon being relieved by an incoming TAC.
- *Signing their Troop out at the end of MBU. Securing medication.
- *Verify that no scout is left behind before departing.
- *Make sure that scouts are not running in halls, climbing stairs, riding in elevators, acting irresponsibly as we are guests at UTRGV.

Scout Responsibilities

- *Discuss the Merit Badges they want to work on with their Scoutmasters.
- *Register for Merit Badge classes online, with an adult's assistance.
- *Notify their Scoutmasters for which Merit Badges they registered.
- *Wear Class A uniform.
- *Bring evidence of Pre-requisite completion, current Merit Badge Handbooks (recommended), paper, and any other necessary course material to class. Be sure to present to Instructor for credit before end of class.
Note that the merit badge workbook will be provided.
- *Bring pen or pencil and be filled with **enthusiasm and good manners!**
- * Notify his TAC if he needs to depart early or has a problem or issue.
- * Obey the Scout Oath and Law. Showing trustworthiness by treating the University Campus, Buildings, Classrooms and Equipment with respect. The University Staff has placed their trust and confidence in the Council's Scouts and adults to use its facilities. You can be responsible for helping this turn into a recurring and rewarding partnership.
- *Be courteous to all on campus.
- *Pay attention to the adult volunteers who are instructing and assisting in the classrooms and do not be rude to your fellow Scouts.
- *Demonstrate "Leave No Trace Principles". Put trash in the appropriate containers, leave chairs, tables, desks clean and in the proper place. Leaving the bathrooms clean and neat in appearance.
- *Meet with the MBU nurse for taking required medications.

MBU Course Offerings

Morning Courses (8:30 am – 12:30 pm)

- Art
- Chess
- Citizenship in the Nation*
- Citizenship in the World*
- Cooking*
- Crime Prevention / Fingerprinting (2 merit badges)
- Electricity
- First Aid*
- Game Design
- Inventing
- Law
- Photography
- Public Health
- Sustainability*
- Weather

Full Day Course (8:30 am – 12:30 pm) (1:30 pm-5:30 pm)

- Space Exploration (\$10 materials fee)

Afternoon Courses (1:30 pm – 5:30 pm)

- American Heritage
- Astronomy
- Citizenship in the Community*
- Communications*
- Cooking*
- Digital Technology
- Disability Awareness
- Electronics (\$10 materials fee)
- Emergency Preparedness*
- Engineering
- Family Life* / Pets (2 merit badges)
- Game Design
- Medicine
- Personal Management*
- Photography
- Surveying

*** Eagle Required Merit Badges**

Note: *Classes and schedules are subject to change*

Course Prerequisites

Recommended Pre-requisites (may vary dependent on course instructor).

Merit Badge Requirements:

<https://www.scouting.org/programs/scouts-bsa/advancement-and-awards/merit-badges/>

American Heritage

Requirement 3(c). Research Family History. Be prepared to discuss in class.

Art

All requirements will be covered in class.

Astronomy

All requirements will be covered in class.

Chess

All requirements will be covered in class.

Citizenship in the Community – Eagle Required

Complete Requirement 3(a). Bring a note from an adult as proof.

Complete Requirement 7c. Bring a note from an adult as proof of at least 8 hours of community service.

Citizenship in the Nation – Eagle Required

Complete Requirement 2. Bring a note from an adult as proof.

Citizenship in the World – Eagle Required

All requirements will be covered in class.

Communications – Eagle Required

Complete Requirement 5. Bring a note from an adult as proof.

Complete Requirement 6. Bring your plan and materials to class.

Complete Requirement 8. Bring proof to class.

Cooking – Eagle Required

Requirement 4. Cooking at home – bring note from adult showing completion

Requirement 4(b). Share and discuss your meal plan and shopping list with your counselor.

Requirement 5. Camp cooking – bring note from Scoutmaster or ASM showing completion.

Requirement 5(c). Share and discuss your meal plan and shopping list with your counselor.

Requirement 6. Trail and backpacking meals – bring note from Scoutmaster or ASM showing completion.

Requirement 6(c). Share and discuss your meal plan and shopping list with your counselor.

Crime Prevention

Requirement 4(a). Inspect your neighborhood. Bring findings

Requirement 4(b). Bring checklist of security survey of your home.

Requirement 7. Bring proof of completion.

Digital Technology

Complete Requirement 1. Bring your Cyber Chip.

Disabilities Awareness

Requirement 2. Visit an agency that works with people with physical, mental, emotional, or educational disabilities.

Collect and read information about the agency's activities. Learn about opportunities its members have for training, employment, and education. Discuss what you have learned with your counselor

Electricity

Complete Requirement 2. Bring home safety inspection list to class.

Electronics (additional \$10 fee)

All requirements will be covered in class.

Emergency Preparedness – Eagle Required

Bring verification that you earned the First Aid Merit Badge.

Complete Requirement 8. Be prepared to discuss in class. Bring your kit to class.

Engineering

All requirements will be covered in class.

Family Life – Eagle Required

Requirement 3. Keep a 90-day record of home duties and chores

Requirement 4. Family project. Bring photo of before and after or note from parent.

Requirement 5. Carry out a project that involves family participation. Bring note from parent.

Requirement 6b. Plan and carry out family meeting and discuss the subject indicated. Bring note from parent.

Fingerprinting

All requirements can be taught in class.

First Aid – Eagle Required

Bring your handbook to show your counselor that you have current knowledge of all first-aid requirements for Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class ranks per Requirement 1.

Requirement 2d: Bring your prepared first aid kit for your home. Display and discuss its contents with your counselor.

Game Design

All requirements can be taught in class.

Inventing

All requirements will be covered in class.

Law

Review People vs McGrew (document will be emailed to you)

Medicine

All requirements will be covered in class.

Personal Management - Eagle Required

Requirement 1(a). Be prepared to discuss in class.

Requirement 1(b). Bring work to class. Be prepared to discuss in class.

Requirement 1(b2). Be prepared to discuss in class.

Requirement 1(b3). Bring note from adult as proof.

Requirement 2(a). Track income, expenses and savings for 13 consecutive weeks. Bring to class.

Pets

Requirement 1: Bring proof that you cared for a pet for 4 months.

Requirement 4a: Bring a photo of your pet. You will show your pet in a pet show in class.

Photography

Bring your own digital camera.

Requirement 1b. Bring your Cyber Chip to class.

Public Health

All requirements will be covered in class.

Space Exploration (additional \$10 fee)

All requirements will be covered in class.

Surveying

All requirements will be covered in class.

Sustainability – Eagle Required

1. Have a family meeting and ask family members to write down what they think sustainability means. Be sure to take notes. You will need this information again for requirement 5.
2. Water A.
 1. Develop and implement a plan that attempts to reduce your family's water usage;
 2. As a family discuss water usage. To aid in your discussion, if past water bills are available, you may choose to examine a few.
 3. As a family, choose three ways to help reduce consumption.
 4. Implement those ideas for **one month**.
 5. Share what you learn with your counselor and tell how your plan affected your family's water usage.
2. Food A.
 1. Develop and implement a plan that attempts to reduce your household food waste.
 2. Establish a baseline and then track and record your results for **two weeks**.
 3. Report your results to your family and counselor.
2. Energy B.
 1. Develop and implement a plan that attempts to reduce consumption for one of your family's household utilities.
 2. Examine your family's bills for that utility for three months (past or current)
 3. As a family, choose three ways to help reduce consumption and be a better steward of this resource.
 4. Implement those ideas for **one month**.

Or

2. Energy C.

Evaluate your family's fuel and transportation usage

 1. Review your family's transportation-related bills (gasoline, diesel, electric, public transportation, etc.) reflecting usage for three months (past or current).
 2. As a family choose three ways to help reduce consumption and be a better steward of this resource.
 3. Implement those ideas for **one month**.
 4. Share what you learned with your counselor and tell how your plan affected you family's transportation habits.
2. Stuff A.
 1. Keep a log of stuff your family purchases (excluding food items) for two weeks. In your log, categorize each purchase as an essential need (such as soap) or desirable want (such as a DVD). Use the bank log form at the end.
 2. Share what you learn with your counselor.
5. a. After completing requirements 1 through 4, have a family meeting.

Discuss what your family has learned about what it means to be a sustainable citizen.
Talk about the behavioral changes and life choices your family can make to live more sustainably. Share what you learn with your counselor

Weather

All requirements will be covered in class.