**Virtual   
 Merit Badge University**Participant and Leader Guide

10 April 2021



Sponsored by

Boy Scouts of America – 775 Rio Grande Council

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**Greetings**

Welcome to Merit Badge University sponsored by the Rio Grande Council of the Boys Scouts of America. Scouts can choose to attend 2 to 4 merit badge sessions from a list of approximately 21 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: Sarah Mendez, Paula Rios, Homer Rios, Dr. Sharon Cavazos, and Marisa Vela. A big thank you to our BSA Rio Grande Council Staff for their continued support and participation: Ernest Espinoza 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 Rio Grande Council Virtual Merit Badge University!

With appreciation,

Rachel Martinez  
MBU Chairperson  
rachelmtz\_scouting@yahoo.com

**Merit Badge University**

Saturday, 10 April 2021

Virtual Event

**Registration and Policy**

\* $25 Registration fee  
\* Registration Begins March 5, 2021  
\* Registration Closes at midnight on April 8, 2021

* 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 $25.00 and includes:  
  Registration, 2 to 4 merit badge courses, course schedule, and MBU patch
* Double-Knot charges a convenience fee that is not associated with MBU.
* 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 the day of 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. Council refund policies will be followed.

**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 Ernest Espinoza at [ernest.espinoza@scouting.org](mailto:ernest.espinoza@scouting.org), the scoutmaster, and Troop Adult Contact for efficiency purposes.

**MBU Cancellation**

Virtual MBU will take place rain or shine.

**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 [bsargvcamps@gmail.com](mailto:bsargvcamps@gmail.com).

**Completing Merit Badge Partials**

Scouts are responsible for completing the requirements not fulfilled during MBU. The scout may show the completed requirement to their troop Merit Badge Advancement Coordinator for documentation of completion.

**MBU Schedule**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 8:00 am | \*Log into Main Zoom for Opening ceremony, Posting Colors Troop 61 |
| 8:25 am | \*Scouts, counselors, and leadership log in to assigned morning session |
| 8:30 am - 12:30 pm | \*Morning session begins  \*A managed break will be available to scouts during the morning session |
| NOTE: | \***2-Hour Session Time:** (A) 8:30am-10:30am (B)10:30am – 12:30pm Scouts participating in a 2-hour course must log in to the correct session and log out at the end of the session. |
| 12:30- 12:45 pm | \*Morning session ends / Break / Get lunch and log into Main Zoom |
| 12:45- 1:15pm | \* Eat lunch while logged into Main Zoom to view presentation \* Presentation: Eagle Scout |
| 1:15- 1:30 pm | \*Lunch ends / Break \* Scouts, Counselors, and leadership log in to assigned classroom |
| 1:30- 5:30 pm | \*Afternoon session begins \*A managed break will be available to scouts during the afternoon session |
| NOTE: | \***2-Hour Session Time:** (A) 1:30pm-3:30pm (B)3:30pm – 5:30pm Scouts participating in a 2-hour course must log in to the correct session and log out at the end of the session. |
| 5:30 pm | \*Afternoon Session Ends |
| 5:30 - 5:45 pm | \*Closing ceremony, Retiring the Colors Troop 76 |

**PARTIAL MERIT BADGES: Some merit badges have requirements that require scouts to document specific activities for a certain amount of time after taking the merit badge course. Completed requirements must be presented the scouts troop Merit Badge Advancement Coordinator for documentation of completion.**

**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.

\*Name and Troop # on display for proper course credit.

\*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.

\*Be prepared with merit badge workbook, pen or pencil, and be filled with **enthusiasm and good manners!**

**Scout Zoom Expectations**

\* Obey the Scout Oath and Law  
  
\* Mentally awake - Pay attention to the adult volunteers who are instructing the course.  
  
\* Be trustworthy and courteous – Camera on. Participate.

**MBU Course Offerings**

**Morning Courses (8:30 am – 12:30 pm)**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Merit Badge** | **Pre-requisites** | **Counselor** | **Class** |  |
| Chess |  | Oneida Tamez | 1 |  |
| \* Citizenship in the Community | 3a,7c | Oscar Garza | 2 |  |
| \* Citizenship in the Nation | 2 | Mindy Escamilla | 3 |  |
| \* Citizenship in the World |  | Bob Schmidt | 4 |  |
| Crime Prevention – 2hr  (8:30am-10:30am) | 4a,4b,7 | Robert Rodriguez | 5A |  |
| Camping-2hr  (10:30am-12:30pm) |  | Stephen Wingert | 5B |  |
| \* First Aid | 1,2d | Thomas McKnight | 6 |  |
| \*Personal Fitness-2hr  (8:30am-10:30am) |  | Rachel Martinez | 7A |  |
| Pets-2hr (10:30am-12:30pm) |  | Erica Saldivar | 7B |  |
| Photography | 1A (Cyber chip) | Eric Guerrero | 8 |  |
| \* Sustainability |  |  | 9 |  |
| Weather |  | Eulogio Mendoza | 10 |  |

**Afternoon Courses (1:30 pm – 5:30 pm)**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Merit Badge** | **Pre-requisites** | **Counselor** | **Class** |  |
| American Heritage | 3c | Erica Saldivar | 1 |  |
| \* Citizenship in the Nation | 2 | Mindy Escamilla | 2 |  |
| \* Communications | 5,6,8 | Ada Rodriguez | 3 |  |
| \* Cooking | 4,4b,5,5c,6,6c | Thomas McKnight | 4 |  |
| Disability Awareness | 2 | Velma Schmidt | 5 |  |
| \* Emergency Preparedness | First Aid merit badge | Richard Castello | 6 |  |
| \*Family Life-2hr  (1:30pm-3:30pm) | 3,4,5,6b | Denise Delgado | 7A |  |
| \*Personal Fitness -2hr (3:30pm-5:30pm) |  | Rachel Martinez | 7B |  |
| Fishing | 9,10 | Hector Perez | 8 |  |
| Game Design |  | Capital Area Council | 9 |  |
| \* Personal Management | 1,2 | Damian Saenz | 10 |  |

**\* Eagle Required Merit Badges**

***Classes and schedules are subject to change*PARTIAL MERIT BADGES: Some merit badges have requirements that require scouts to document specific activities for a certain amount of time after taking the merit badge course. Completed requirements must be presented the scouts troop Merit Badge Advancement Coordinator for documentation of completion.**

**Course Prerequisites**

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

**Click link to view requirements for all merit badges:**<https://www.scouting.org/programs/scouts-bsa/advancement-and-awards/merit-badges/>

**PARTIAL MERIT BADGES: Some merit badges have requirements that require scouts to document specific activities for a certain amount of time after taking the merit badge course. Completed requirements must be presented the scouts troop Merit Badge Advancement Coordinator for documentation of completion.**

**American Heritage**

Pre-requisite Requirement: 3(c). Research Family History. Be prepared to discuss in class.    
Workbook link: <http://usscouts.org/mb/worksheets/American-Heritage.pdf>

**Camping**  
**Some requirements to be finalized AFTER course is taken.**Workbook link: <http://usscouts.org/mb/worksheets/Camping.pdf>

**Chess**

All requirements will be covered in class.  
Workbook link: <http://usscouts.org/mb/worksheets/Chess.pdf>

**Citizenship in the Community – Eagle Required**

**Some requirements to be finalized AFTER course is taken.**Pre-requisite Complete Requirement 3(a). Bring a note from an adult as proof.

Pre-requisite Complete Requirement 7c. Bring a note from an adult as proof of at least 8 hours of community service.   
Workbook link: <http://usscouts.org/mb/worksheets/Citizenship-in-the-Community.pdf>

**Citizenship in the Nation – Eagle Required**

**Some requirements to be finalized AFTER course is taken.**Pre-requisite Complete Requirement 2. Bring a note from an adult as proof.  
Workbook link: <http://usscouts.org/mb/worksheets/Citizenship-in-the-Nation.pdf>

**Citizenship in the World – Eagle Required**

All requirements will be covered in class.  
Workbook link: <http://usscouts.org/mb/worksheets/Citizenship-in-the-Nation.pdf>

**Communications – Eagle Required**

**Some requirements to be finalized AFTER course is taken.**Pre-requisite Complete Requirement 5. Bring a note from an adult as proof.

Pre-requisite Complete Requirement 6. Bring your plan and materials to class.

Pre-requisite Complete Requirement 8.  Bring proof to class.  
Workbook link: <http://usscouts.org/mb/worksheets/Communication.pdf>

**Cooking – Eagle Required  
Some requirements to be finalized AFTER course is taken.**Pre-requisite Requirement 4. Cooking at home – bring note from adult showing completion

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

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

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

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

Pre-requisite Requirement 6(c). Share and discuss your meal plan and shopping list with your counselor.  
Workbook link: <http://usscouts.org/mb/worksheets/Cooking.pdf>

**Crime Prevention**

Pre-requisite Requirement 4(a). Inspect your neighborhood. Bring findings

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

Pre-requisite Requirement 7. Bring proof of completion.  
Workbook link: <http://usscouts.org/mb/worksheets/Crime-Prevention.pdf>

**Disabilities Awareness**

Pre-requisite 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  
Workbook link: <http://usscouts.org/mb/worksheets/Disabilities-Awareness.pdf>

**Emergency Preparedness – Eagle Required**

Pre-requisite Bring verification that you earned the First Aid Merit Badge.

Pre-requisite Complete Requirement 8. Be prepared to discuss in class. Bring your kit to class.  
Workbook link: <http://usscouts.org/mb/worksheets/Emergency-Preparedness.pdf>

**Family Life – Eagle Required**

**Some requirements to be finalized AFTER course is taken.**Pre-requisite Requirement 3. Keep a 90-day record of home duties and chores

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

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

Pre-requisite Requirement 6b. Plan and carry out family meeting and discuss the subject indicated. Bring note from parent.  
Workbook link: <http://usscouts.org/mb/worksheets/Family-Life.pdf>

**First Aid – Eagle Required**

Pre-requisite 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.

Pre-requisite Requirement 2d: Bring your prepared first aid kit for your home. Display and discuss its contents with your counselor.  
Workbook link: <http://usscouts.org/mb/worksheets/First-Aid.pdf>

**Fishing**  
**Some requirements to be finalized AFTER course is taken.**Pre-requisite Requirement 9. Bring proof  
Pre-requisite Requirement 10: Bring proof   
Workbook link: <http://usscouts.org/mb/worksheets/Fishing.pdf>

**Game Design**

**Some requirements to be finalized AFTER course is taken.**Workbook link: <http://usscouts.org/mb/worksheets/Game-Design.pdf>

**Personal Fitness – Eagle Required**  
**Some requirements to be finalized AFTER course is taken.**  
Workbook link: <http://usscouts.org/mb/worksheets/Personal-Fitness.pdf>

**Personal Management - Eagle Required**

**Some requirements to be finalized AFTER course is taken.**Pre-requisite Requirement 1(a). Be prepared to discuss in class.

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

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

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

Pre-requisite Requirement 2(a). Track income, expenses and savings for 13 consecutive weeks. Bring to class.  
Workbook link: <http://usscouts.org/mb/worksheets/Personal-Management.pdf>

**Pets**

**Some requirements to be finalized AFTER course is taken.**Pre-requisite Requirement 1: Bring proof that you cared for a pet for 4 months.

Pre-requisite Requirement 4a: Bring a photo of your pet. You will show your pet in a pet show in class.   
Workbook link: <http://usscouts.org/mb/worksheets/Pets.pdf>

**Photography**

Digital camera.

Pre-requisite Requirement 1a. Bring your Cyber Chip to class**.**Workbook link: <http://usscouts.org/mb/worksheets/Photography.pdf>

**Sustainability – Eagle Required  
Some requirements to be finalized AFTER course is taken.**

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  
Workbook link: <http://usscouts.org/mb/worksheets/Sustainability.pdf>

**Weather**

All requirements will be covered in class.  
Workbook link: <http://usscouts.org/mb/worksheets/Weather.pdf>**PARTIAL MERIT BADGES: Some merit badges have requirements that require scouts to document specific activities for a certain amount of time after taking the merit badge course. Completed requirements must be presented the scouts troop Merit Badge Advancement Coordinator for documentation of completion.**