

2022-2023 Virtual Merit Badges

Hosted by: Northwest District of Montana Council

Who: All youth, ages 11-17, in Montana Council of Scouts BSA

When: 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month at 6:00pm

Where: The classes will be held online via Zoom

Cost: FREE to all youth in Montana Council, Scouts BSA

*****CLASS SIZE IS LIMITED TO 40 SCOUTS*****

“Virtual merit badge classes are a great way to expand the scouting program by making merit badge classes more accessible while connecting scouts to experts that would otherwise be unable to assist.”

- Barbara Oxford

NW District Vice Chair

Virtual MB Course Organizer

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Course Descriptions

MONTH	COURSE	CLASS DATES	REQUIREMENTS SCOUTS MUST COMPLETE SOLO	REQUIREMENTS ACCOMPLISHED IN CLASS	IMPORTANT TO KNOW
September 2022	Salesmanship	1 st & 15 th	#4, #5	#1, #2, #3, #6, #7	Easily completed during the annual popcorn fundraiser.
October 2022	Citizenship in the Nation	6 th & 20 th	#2, #3, #6	#1, #4, #5, #7, #8	With special guest speaker, Senator Jon Tester .
November 2022	American Heritage	3 rd & 17 th	#1, #3c, #4	#2, #3a, #3b, #5, #6	US military veterans will be joining class.
December 2022	Coin Collecting	1 st & 15 th	#5, #9, #10	#1, #2, #3, #4, #6, #7, #8	A terrific opportunity to explore a fascinating topic.
January 2023	Scouting Heritage	5 th & 19 th	#4b, #6	#1, #2, #3, #5, #7, #8	Rare Montana scouting history not found in books.
February 2023	Art	2 nd & 16 th	#4, #5	#1, #2, #3, #6 #7	Chat live with artists from across Montana.
March 2023	Citizenship in the World	2 nd & 16 th + a Sat. morning	#3, #7b	#1, #2, #4, #5 #6, #7c	Chat live with Scouts from the UK and South Africa.
April 2023	Signs, Signals, & Codes	6 th & 20 th	#5b, #6b, #7, #8a, #8d, #10	#1, #2, #3, #4, #5a, #6a, #8e, #9	Learn to communicate silently & secretly.
May 2023	Insect Study	4 th & 18 th	#5, #6a, #9, #10	#1, #2, #3, #4, #6b, #7, #8, #11, #12, #13	Experts in insect study will be joining class.

- All classes are as interactive as possible. Additional noteworthy features may be added to each class. -

Question	Answer
⇒ How do you register?	✓ Scouts must talk to their Scoutmaster to register. ONLY Scoutmasters can register Scouts. Scoutmasters must send a list of Scouts wanting to participate along with their email address to the course organizer. <u>Scoutmasters are verified before a registration confirmation email is sent to the Troop.</u> This measure is out of an abundance of caution. *Advancement Chairs must include their Scoutmaster in a registration request email.
⇒ When does registration open?	✓ Registration for each course begins 30 days before the first class and ends 48 hours before the first class. No early or late registrations will be accepted.
⇒ How many classes are there for each course?	✓ There are two classes for each MB course.
⇒ How do Scouts get login information for the class?	✓ Login information is sent in a pre-course email to each Troop 48-hours before the first class in the course.
⇒ Are Scouts required to attend both classes?	✓ Yes! Scouts must attend both classes for each merit badge course.
⇒ Are Scoutmasters required to attend?	✓ No! Scoutmasters are not required to attend but they are always welcome to.
⇒ How long does each class last?	✓ Classes are approximately 1.5 hours long.
⇒ What about blue-cards?	✓ ALL blue-cards will be done digitally through Scoutbook. This is the most straightforward method for connecting merit badge counselors and reporting badge completion.
⇒ Who will the merit badge counselor be?	✓ Counselor information will be included in the pre-course email with course login information. (sent 48 hours before 1 st class)
⇒ Will the badge be fully earned just by participating in class?	✓ No! Although many requirements will be completed in class, there are always some a Scout is responsible to complete on their own. For more details, please see the course descriptions.
⇒ How long, after the course ends, does a Scout have to finish & turn in all requirements?	✓ Although the BSA Guide to Advancement does not limit the amount of time a Scout can take to complete a badge, merit badge counselors for these courses will only be available for 6 months after the course ends. Scouts are strongly encouraged to complete the chosen badge within 6 months.
⇒ Are merit badge workbooks required?	✓ Due to the nature of virtual classes, merit badge workbooks are essential. They should be viewed as a tool for the Scout to use to show their counselor they were paying attention in class. For requirements not completed during class, a written answer is expected when the workbook says “discuss” or “tell”. Photos or videos are required when the workbook says “show” or “demonstrate”.
⇒ Are uniforms required?	✓ Yes! Class-A uniforms are required. Scouts not in uniform will be asked to leave class and return after they have dressed properly.
⇒ Can Troops take the class together as a group?	✓ Yes! Troops can choose to gather and participate in this class together.