



# Merit Badge Challenge – 2009

## Frequently Asked Questions by Parents and Scout Leaders

### [What is the purpose of the Scoutmaster's signature on the Registration Form?](#)

***This question is listed first because it is the most important item that determines the success of a Scout at the Merit Badge Challenge.***

This event has been conducted in at least one district for the past 11 years. The average success rate for a Scout is about 50-60% with younger scouts having a lower success rate.

“Not all merit badges are created equal.” Our staff fully recognizes this fact and recommends an age appropriateness or additional class time for others in structuring the event. But there is only so much the Merit Badge Challenge staff can do to help the Scout select badges appropriate to his maturity, attitude, interest, and ability.

This is where the Scoutmaster is the key, and parents can certainly help as well. A completed Registration Form requires the signature of the Scoutmaster attesting the Scout can handle the work required to complete the selected badges. ***To sign the Registration form for a badge(s) that is not appropriate for the Scout's mental and physical abilities is probably dooming him to failure.*** Once the Registration form is received at Council, the youth remains in that class.

***Scoutmasters, please take the time to ensure the right badges for your youth. We both want them to be successful and it starts with you.***

### [Where can I get a Registration Form to sign up for the event?](#)

Both the Scoutmaster and Committee Chair for each Troop were mailed a packet in early September. One of the items in the packet was a blank Registration form that can be copied for each Scout.

A common Registration form for all schools is also available on the Dan Beard Council Website. Look under 'Program' and then 'Advancement' to find this form and associated information.

Alternatively, the youth may use the On-line Registration method found on the DB Council website to register for one of the MBC events. A credit card is required.

### [Which location for the Merit Badge Challenge should I attend?](#)

A Scout may attend any of the high schools for Merit Badge Challenge. Troops usually attend one of the Merit Badge Challenge as a unit. If you do not know which school your unit normally attends, you may want to contact a member of your unit before completing your Registration. A Scout may attend only one Merit Badge Challenge annually. Merit badges offered vary from location to location.

**Does a Scout have to do the Prework?**

**Only if he wants to earn the merit badge!**

Parent and Scoutmasters: The second discriminator for the successful earning of a merit badge at the Challenge is the completion of the Prework required by most badges. The Prework consists of one or more of the requirements for the badge. Lack of timely completion of this Prework is the number one complaint by our counselors. As the time for the first Saturday approaches, please verify your Scouts are prepared.

**How is the Merit Badge Challenge structured?**

Each Merit Badge Challenge follows a standard format and offers counseling for 30-50 merit badges.

The event is held at four high schools (Dixie Heights, Fairfield, Sycamore, and Williamsburg) with varying dates in January February and March. The event is structured for a Scout to have the opportunity to earn up to 3 merit badges by:

1. Attending the event held on all 3 Saturdays
2. Completing the Prework and Homework between sessions
3. Passing a written exam on the last Saturday.

**What is the schedule at the Challenge?**

The Merit Badge Challenge is divided into 3 sessions on each of the 3 scheduled Saturdays. All sessions are 75 minutes in duration.

First Session (A)	8:30 am to 9:45 am
Second Session (B)	10:00 am to 11:15 am
Third Session (C)	11:30 am to 12:45 pm

**Are all merit badges the same time duration at the Challenge?**

Most of the badges offered are for a single session on each of the 3 Saturdays.

Here are the exceptions.

The following merit badges are scheduled for all three sessions. If a scout is assigned this merit badge, it will be the only badge he will have the opportunity to earn.

**First Aid                      Emergency Preparedness**

The following merit badges are scheduled for 2 of the 3 sessions.

**Astronomy    Railroading    Aviation    Electronics**

**What determines what merit badge a Scout is assigned?**

First, a Scout selects a 1<sup>st</sup> choice for each of the three sessions, and provides an alternate badge for each session. His 1<sup>st</sup> choice indicates to the Registrar those badges that he most wants to earn, and the Registrar uses this fact to first determine if this badge is still available. If the class is filled, the Registrar moves to the second choice and attempts to give him this badge. If both are filled for a given session, the Register will contact the scout via email or phone to determine a satisfactory badge based on availability.

Remember merit badge assignments are made on a first come, first serve basis. Therefore, the earlier the Registration form is received at Council, the greater the probability the Scout will receive his 1<sup>st</sup> Choice. Scouts registering in September and early October generally have no problem getting the badges of their choice.

**New this year**, Scouts attending at Fairfield will be able to register and schedule their sessions online with the knowledge as to whether a merit badge class has been filled and no longer available. The process is similar to that used at summer camp.

**Net, register early.**

**How many Eagle required merit badges may a scout take?**

If a scout has not attained the rank of First Class at the time of sending in his Registration, he may take up to one Eagle required badge. He should list no more than one Eagle badge on his Registration Form as his 1st choice, and no more than one Eagle badge as an Alternate.

If a scout has attained the rank of First Class at the time of registration, he may take up to two Eagle required badges. He should list no more than two Eagle badges on his Registration Form as his 1st choice, and no more than two Eagle badges as an Alternate.

No scout may take three Eagle required badges.

**What are the key dates associated with the event?**

- **REGISTRATIONS OPEN FOR THE MBC EVENTS: SEPT. 15, 2008**
- **NORMAL REGISTRATIONS CLOSE NOVEMBER 14, 2008**
- **UNIT PACKETS MAIL ON DECEMBER 1, 2008**
- **COUNSELOR INFO MAILS ON DECEMBER 1, 2008**

**What are the dates of the Merit Badge Challenge for 2009?**

- **Fairfield High School**
  - **Jan. 24, Feb. 14, Feb. 21, (snow date is April 25, 2009)**
- **Sycamore High School**
  - **Feb. 14, Feb. 21, and March 14 (snow date is April 4, 2009)**
- **Williamsburg High School**
  - **Feb. 14, Feb. 28, and March 14 (snow date is March 21, 2009)**
- **Dixie Heights High School**
  - **Jan. 31, Feb. 14, and Feb. 28 (snow date is March 7, 2009)**

**Can I change my merit badge selection after completing my Registration?**

Generally not, but here are two exceptions that can be discussed with the MBC Event Registrar.

- If the Scout completes a merit badge that he signed up to take, he will be granted a change provided an alternate badge can be found at the same time.
- An extenuating circumstance dictates a change. For example, the Scout has signed up for Dog Care and his dog died since sending in the form, then efforts will be made to provide an alternate badge.

**How do I contact the MBC Event Registrar about my class?**

Fairfield High School: Mary Beth Vogerl (513) 931 5811 or mbyrne1@nuvox.net

Sycamore High School: Hal Wood (513) 677 2870 or halwoodmbc@yahoo.com

Williamsburg H.S.: Nancie Lizakowski (513) 752 5963 rlizakowski@fuse.net

Dixie Heights H.S.: Mary Beth Vogerl (513) 931 5811 or mbyrne1@nuvox.net

### **Does a Scout have to take a merit badge all three sessions?**

Our policy with the high schools is that a Scout participating in the event is to be in class all three sessions. They are not permitted to be wandering around the school or pass the time in the lunchroom. By pre-arrangement with the Registrar they may attend fewer than 3 sessions, but must leave the school property when not attending class.

### **Who do I contact to find out the name of one of my Counselors?**

This information is not available till mid-December, 2008.

Fairfield: Tom Montgomery (513) 844 8930 montgota@fuse.net  
Sycamore: Bill Flodder (513) 459-9083 uflodwl@ix.netcom.com  
Williamsburg: Reg Lizakowski (513) 752 5963 rlizakowski@fuse.net  
Dixie Heights: Diane Skinner (859) 341 8445 or dianceskinner@catholichealth.net

### **Can a Scout register after the Council deadline?**

Limited late Registrations will be accepted by Council based on the following:

- Registrations must be made in person by the youth or parent at the Victory Parkway Council office with the MBC Council Registrar. On-line Registration closes at end of business on November 14, 2008.
- The Paper Registration form must be complete with required signature and legible.
- Event fee will be \$25 (vs. the standard \$12)
- The Event can not guarantee the youth a patch
- The Event cannot guarantee the youth his selections in merit badges, but the MBC Event Registrar will work with the youth to find appropriate badges.
- No Late Registrations can be accepted by Council three (3) weeks prior to the scheduled event at a school. (This date then "floats" based on the first Saturday for each of the events).
- No "walk-ins" allowed at the events.

### **Special note on Music and Bugling Merit Badges**

**MUSIC Merit Badge:** The playing and reading skills needed for the Music Merit Badge would suggest at least two years of playing with individual lessons. You must be able to sight read a song chosen by the counselor, therefore if you can't read music you can not pass. You must also demonstrate good technique, phrasing, tone, rhythm and dynamics which all are not normally acquired by beginners (those with less than 2 years experience).

**BUGLING Merit Badge:** This is a merit badge for a more experienced player. You need to have developed above average articulation skills. If you can't triple tongue you won't pass as this merit badge as this articulation is required in several of the calls. You also must also have sufficient stamina and playing range. If you can't easily play the "G" above the treble staff, you won't pass. These skills are typically not demonstrated in Junior High players.

Net, musical training is not provided at the Merit Badge Challenge. A Scout should register for one of these badges only if adequate musical proficiency can be demonstrated. The Merit Badge Challenge staff and the music counselors strongly suggest the Scout first review the requirements with an adult knowledgeable in his musical abilities before committing to either of these badges.