



Merit Badge University Parent Packet

Thank you for registering your scout(s) for the History Museum on the Square's Merit Badge University in partnership with the Discovery Center of Springfield! We are so excited to see you and your scouts on **Saturday, January 17th, 2026.**

Included in this packet are:

- Registration Check-list
- Drop Off and Pick Up details
- MBU Schedule and Information
- List of Prerequisites for the Merit Badges offered

Parents are welcome, but not required to attend, and they are not required to be actively engaged with the badge program. Younger Scouts may benefit from parental assistance when navigating the Museum to find their next program.

Please contact Al Thompson, Civics Education Coordinator, with any questions about the Merit Badge University at al@historymuseumonthesquare.org or call 417-831-1976.

See you then!

Registration Checklist

- Purchase admission to the MBU on website at <https://historymuseumonthesquare.org/product/mbu/>
- Fill out MBU Registration Form on website at <https://historymuseumonthesquare.org/mbuform/>
- Bring SIGNED MBU Permission Form to drop-off OR Email scan of signed form to info@historymuseumonthesquare.org (*This will be sent to you in a follow-up email prior to the event.*)
- Make sure your scout completes the Badge Prerequisites before attending the MBU
- (Required) Scouts must bring Blue Cards. These will not be provided. They will need a Blue Card for each Merit Badge program they are attending.
- (Optional) The History Museum will not provide Merit Badge Workbooks. If you would like to use them, please print out your own and bring it.

Drop off and Pick Up

Badge programs are happening at both the History Museum on the Square and the Discovery Center of Springfield. Please ensure that your scout is dropped off at the site of their first badge program and picked up at the site of their last program.



History Museum Drop off and Pick up:

- Address: 154 Park Central Square, Springfield, MO 65806
- Badge programs begin at 9:00 AM
- Entrance doors are located on the downtown square. Parking is north of the square on the corners of Olive and Booneville.
- MBU drop-off begins at 8:45 and will end promptly at 9 AM so scouts can begin their activities. **Please call the museum (417) 831-1976 for any late arrivals.**
- Pick up runs from 5:00-5:30 pm. When you arrive, a museum staff member will greet you, and you need to have a photo ID ready to show them.

Discovery Center Drop off and Pick up:

- Address: 438 E St Louis St, Springfield, MO 65806
- Badge programs begin at 9:00 AM
- Entrance doors are located under the green awning, closest to St. Louis Street. Follow the signs that point to the School Entrance.
- MBU drop-off begins at 8:45 and will end promptly at 9 AM so scouts can begin their activities. **Please call the Discovery Center's Director phone, (417) 689-7975 for any late arrivals.**
- Pick up runs from 5:00-5:30 pm. When you arrive at the school doors, a director will greet you, and you need to have a photo ID ready to show them.

MBU Schedule and Information

| MBU Schedule January 17, 2026 | | | |  | |  | |
|---|--|----------------------------|------------------------------|---|-----------------------|---|--|
| Drop Off 8:45 - 9:00 | | Drop off at History Museum | | | Drop off at DCS | | |
| Morning Session 9:00 - 12:00 | | Citizenship in the World | Citizenship in the Community | Communication | | | |
| Lunch 12:00 - 1:00 | | Lunch in the Fox | | | | | |
| Afternoon Session 1:00 - 5:00 | | Citizenship in the Nation | Radio | Archaeology | Environmental Science | | |
| Pick Up 5:00 - 5:30 | | Pick up at History Museum | | | Pick up at DCS | | |

Morning Session (9 AM - 12 PM)

- Citizenship in the World at the History Museum
- Citizenship in the Community at the History Museum
- *Communication at the Discovery Center*

Lunch (12 - 1 PM)

Afternoon Session (1 - 5 PM)

- 1-5 PM
 - Citizenship in the Nation at the History Museum
 - Radio & Archaeology at the History Museum
 - *Environmental Science at the Discovery Center*

*Make sure to double-check the location of your scouts' first and last badge programs for pick-up and drop-off.

Important Information

Blue Cards: Scouts must bring Blue Cards. Blue Cards will not be provided.

Scout Workbooks: If you would like to use any workbooks, please bring your own. The History Museum will not supply Scout Workbooks for the program. These are optional.

Prerequisites: Full completion of any of these merit badges is possible IF Scouts complete prerequisites before class. If a Scout does not finish all requirements, they can work with their counselor to list and initial requirements completed on their blue card for later completion with the counselor.

Buddy System: Scouts should follow the buddy system with 2-deep adult leadership for all merit badge sessions and for all meetings with Counselors.

Clothing: Scouts are expected to wear their field uniform ("Class A" uniform) with Scout pants and shirt to demonstrate participation as a Scout and to reinforce Scouting values and behavior during the course. Scouts must wear closed-toe shoes or boots (not sandals) with socks to classes for safety. Neckerchiefs and merit badge sashes and medals are not expected or required.

Cell Phones: Scouts may have cell phones with them during the course, but cell phones should be turned completely off during all class sessions. If a Scout chooses to send text messages or talk on their cell phone during class, they will be expected to loan their cell phone to the instructor or to their parent or to a Scout leader for safekeeping during the rest of the day, to be returned when the class ends.

Badge Prerequisites

Archeology Prerequisites:

Requirement 4: Learn about a combined total of five archaeological sites located both within and outside the United States.

- (a) For EACH site you research, point it out on a map and explain how it was discovered. Describe some of the information about the past that has been found at each site. Explain how the information gained from the study of these sites answers questions that archaeologists are asking and how the information may be important to modern people. Compare the relative ages of the sites you research.
- (b) Choose ONE of the sites you picked and give a short presentation about your findings to the class at the HMS MBU.

Communication Prerequisites:

Requirement 3. Write a 5-minute speech, and be prepared to share it with fellow scouts.

Requirement 4. Interview someone you know well, like, or respect because of his or her position, talent, career, or life experiences. Listen actively to learn as much as you can about the person. Then prepare and deliver to your counselor an introduction of the person as though this person were to be a guest speaker, and include reasons why the audience would want to hear this person speak. Show how you would call to invite this person to speak.

Requirement 8. Plan a troop or crew court of honor, campfire program, or an interfaith worship service. Have the patrol leaders' council approve it, then write the script and prepare the program. Serve as master of ceremonies.

Further questions regarding this badge can be sent to the **Discovery Center** at info@discoverycenter.org

Citizenship in the World Prerequisites (Cont. on Next Page):

Requirement 7. Do **TWO** of the following (with your parent or guardian's permission) and share with your counselor what you have learned:

- (a) Visit the website of the U.S. State Department. Learn more about an issue you find interesting that is discussed on this website.
- (b) Visit the website of an international news organization or foreign government, OR examine a foreign newspaper available at your local library, bookstore, or newsstand. Find a news story about a human right realized in the United States that is not recognized in another country.

(c) Visit with a student or Scout from another country and discuss the typical values, holidays, ethnic foods, and traditions practiced or enjoyed there.

(d) Attend a world Scout jamboree.

(e) Participate in or attend an international event in your area, such as an ethnic festival, concert, or play.

Citizenship in the Nation Prerequisites:

Requirement 3: Watch the national evening news five days in a row OR read the front page of a major daily newspaper five days in a row. Discuss the national issues you learned about. Choose one of the issues and explain how it affects you and your family.

Citizenship in the Community Prerequisites:

Requirement 3. Do the following:

(a) Attend a meeting of your city, town, or county council or school board; OR attend a municipal, county, or state court session.

(b) Choose one of the issues discussed at the meeting where a difference of opinion was express and explain to your counselor why you agree with one opinion more than you do another one.

Requirement 5. With the approval of your counselor and a parent, watch a movie that shows how the actions of one individual or group of individuals can have a positive effect on a community. Discuss with your counselor what you learned from the movie about what it means to be a valuable and concerned member of the community.

Requirement 7c. With your counselor's and your parent's approval, contact the organization you chose for requirement 7b, and find out what young people can do to help. While working on this merit badge, volunteer at least eight hours of your time for the organization. After your volunteer experience is over, discuss what you have learned with your counselor.

Requirement 8. Develop a public presentation (such as a video, slide show, speech, digital presentation, or photo exhibit) about important and unique aspects of your community. Include information about the history, cultures, and ethnic groups of your community; its best features and popular places where people gather; and the challenges it faces. Stage your presentation in front of your merit badge counselor or a group, such as your patrol or a class at school.

Environmental Science Prerequisites:

Requirement 1: Make a timeline of the history of environmental science in America. Identify the contribution made by the Boy Scouts of America to environmental science. Include dates, names of people or organizations, and important events.

Requirement 2: Define the following terms: population, community, ecosystem, biosphere, symbiosis, niche, habitat, conservation, threatened species, endangered species, extinction, pollution prevention, brownfield, ozone, watershed, airshed, nonpoint source, hybrid vehicle, fuel cell.

Requirement 4: Choose **TWO** outdoor study areas that are very different from one another (e.g., hilltop vs. bottom of a hill; field vs. forest; swamp vs. dry land). **For BOTH study areas, do ONE of the following:**

(a) Mark off a plot of 4 square yards (about the area of a queen-sized bed) in each study area and count the number of species found there. Estimate how much space is occupied by each plant species and the type and number of non-plant species you find. Write a report that adequately discusses the biodiversity and population density of these study areas. Discuss your report with your counselor.

(b) Make at least three visits to each of the two study areas (for a total of six visits), staying for at least 20 minutes each time, to observe the living and nonliving parts of the ecosystem. Space each visit far enough apart that there are readily apparent differences in the observations. Keep a journal that includes the differences you observe. Then, write a short report that adequately addresses your observations, including how the differences of the study areas might relate to the differences noted, and discuss this with your counselor.

*Further questions regarding this badge can be sent to the **Discovery Center** at info@discoverycenter.org*

Radio Prerequisites:

Requirement 7. Visit a radio installation (an amateur radio station, broadcast station, or public service communications center, for example) approved in advance by your counselor. Discuss what types of equipment you saw in use, how it was used, what types of licenses are required to operate and maintain the equipment, and the purpose of the station.