

Pioneer District STEM Merit Badge College

Event Information

Date: January 17, 2026 and February 7, 2026

Time: 8:00am - 4:00pm

Location: Messiah University, 1 University Ave., Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

Registration

Online registration goes live on November 21st, 2025 via Tentaroo at: <https://nbf.tentaroo.com/>

Fee: \$25 per youth participant, \$10 per adult for lunch per session, no adult fee if attending Admission session (January 17 only) **Register by:** January 1, 2026

Merit badge selection is part of individual registration via Tentaroo. Each merit badge has a specified class size limit and is first come, first serve.

Description

The purpose of a Merit Badge College (MBC) is to offer Scouts an opportunity to meet with highly qualified professionals to learn and foster the development of lifelong interests. We are pleased to present this exciting event. This is an in-person event where each scout may work toward the completion of up to four (4) merit badges.

Program Schedule

Saturday, January 1, 2026 and Saturday, February 7, 2026

Time	Activity	Location
8:00am-8:30am	Registration + Check In	Jordan Center
8:30am-9:00am	Orientation	Frey Hall
9:00am-10:25am	Session 1	Jordan/Frey/Kline
10:30am-11:55am	Session 2	Jordan/Frey/Kline
12:00pm-12:45pm	Lunch	Lottie Dining Hall
12:45pm-2:10pm	Session 3	Jordan/Frey/Kline
2:15pm-3:40pm	Session 4	Jordan/Frey/Kline

Scouts may register for a maximum of four (4) merit badges. If registered for less than four merit badges, the scout should arrive 30-45 minutes before the first scheduled merit badge session or may depart following the last scheduled merit badge session. Scouts with any mid-day free sessions are asked to remain in Frey Hall or Jordan Hall.

Arrival & Check-In

Scouts should arrive between 8:00am-8:30am and report to Frey Hall. Classroom locations will be distributed at this time. Each scout should be prepared to present an [Application for Merit Badge](#) "blue card", signed by their scoutmaster, to their merit badge counselor at the beginning of the session.



No pre-event meeting is scheduled at this time.
Additional information will be shared at the scheduled orientation.

Map



1. Parking for Scouting Participants/Families – by 28 Old Main
2. Check in - 18 Jordan Science Center
3. Orientation -12 Frey Hall
4. Classes – 12 & 18 -Jordan & Frey
5. Parking for Staff & MB Counselors – 18 Jordan Science Center
6. Dining Hall – 10 Eisenhower Campus Center

Program Details

Merit Badge Process

Attending the merit badge college does not guarantee advancement or merit badge completion. Each scout should select merit badges in consultation with their scoutmaster. Some merit badges are recommended for older scouts.

Each scout should be prepared to present an [Application for Merit Badge](#) "blue card", signed by their scoutmaster, to their merit badge counselor at the beginning of the session.

Each scout should review the merit badge requirements, pre-requisites (listed below) and the merit badge pamphlet in advance. All completed pre-requisites should be turned in to the merit badge counselor at the first session. If a pre-requisite is not submitted on time, the scout may receive a partial completion. A partial completion is acceptable; however, a scout may need to find another merit badge counselor after the merit badge college concludes.

Each merit badge requirement must be earned by each scout. Completion of a worksheet downloaded from the internet does not constitute completion of the requirement. Attendance and active participation in all sessions is the best way to complete merit badge requirements. Absences or poor participation may result in a partial completion. A partial completion is acceptable; however, a scout may need to find another merit badge counselor after the merit badge college concludes.

- 1 SELECT YOUR MERIT BADGES.
- 2 GET A SIGNED APPLICATION FOR MERIT BADGE "BLUE CARD" FROM YOUR UNIT LEADER.
- 3 COMPLETE ANY PRE-REQUISITES.
- 4 ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN ALL SESSIONS.

Merit Badge	Pre-requisites	Merit Badge Counselor
AI (Artificial Intelligence)	No Pre-Requisites at the time of publishing*	Gregory Weaver gpweaver@gmail.com
Astronomy	No Pre-Requisites at the time of publishing*	Joe Betsko jbetsko@me.com
Bird Study	1, 8b(1), 8b(2), 11 & 12	Chris Lontz eaglescout192@gmail.com
Communications	Read the Communications merit badge pamphlet.	Greg O'Brien gregoryobrien@comcast.net
Cybersecurity	No Pre-Requisites at the time of publishing*	Gregory Weaver gpweaver@gmail.com
Digital Technology	No Pre-Requisites at the time of publishing*	Matthew Lyon mlyon0005@gmail.com
Electricity	No Pre-Requisites at the time of publishing*	James Knovich jameskno719@gmail.com
Emergency Preparedness	1, 2C, 6, 7B, 8B & 9	Sam Messinger 875Stigertiger@gmail.com
Engineering	No Pre-Requisites at the time of publishing	Joel Kostelac joelkkostelac@gmail.com
Environmental Science	No Pre-Requisites at the time of publishing	Chris Lontz eaglescout192@gmail.com
First Aid	1, 5, 7 & 14	Steven Shehan drshehan@aol.com
Forestry	No Pre-Requisites at the time of publishing	Joey Burke Indyj1@verizon.net

Geology	2 & 4	Chris Brixius brixius@epix.net
Inventing	No Pre-Requisites at the time of publishing	William Walmer billzaddres@hotmail.com
Mammal Study	1, 2, 3 & 4. Suggest doing 3c & 4c	Candice Stark cstark53@gmail.com
Oceanography	No Pre-Requisites at the time of publishing	Candice Stark cstark53@gmail.com
Robotics	Contact your Robotics MB Counselor William Smith (text 240-401-0769) to gain approval BEFORE choosing a task for your robot or robotic subsystem that you plan to build.	William Smith wj.smith1@comcast.net

Communications with Merit Badge Counselors:

Each scout should get in touch with their merit badge counselor between the two sessions with any questions. Reminder, all communications with merit badge counselors should comply with [The Guide to Safe Scouting and Barriers to Abuse](#).

If all merit badge requirements are not completed, the scout may need to find another merit badge counselor after the merit badge college concludes.

Cell phones should be silenced throughout the event and only used with the permission of the merit badge counselor or in an emergency.

Scout Equipment:

- Pencil or pen.
- Notebook or paper.
- A [merit badge pamphlet](#) for each merit badge is recommended.
- List of the current [merit badge requirements](#), revised as of January 1, 2026.

Uniform: The official BSA field uniform is appropriate. Uniform serves as a security measure and as your “meal ticket” in the dining hall.

Volunteer Opportunities

This event would not be possible without a group of dedicated volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering to assist with this event, please contact the event chair.

All volunteers should report for registration at 8:00am.

Meals

Meals are included in the registration fee for this event. If a scout wishes to pack a lunch, please refrain from bringing fast food.

Volunteer event staff will be provided with lunch in the dining hall.

Cancellation

This event is “rain or shine” and will only be canceled in the event of unsafe conditions as a result of severe weather. Cancellation and refunds will follow the New Birth of Freedom Council Year-Round Camping Policies. Notifications related to cancellations will be made via email.

Pioneer District

This event is organized by the Pioneer District of the New Birth of Freedom Council. The Pioneer District serves Scouts within the Camp Hill, Carlisle, South Middleton, Mechanicsburg, Cumberland Valley, East Pennsboro, West Shore and Northern York County School Districts.

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