

2023 Merit Badge University



Presented by:
South Georgia Council
Scouts, BSA

A. General Description

1. Merit Badge University (MBU)

MBU is an educational and advancement opportunity open to any active, registered Scout, Explorer or Venture Scout. Scoutmasters having questions should contact the MBU staff at the email addresses below.

SGC MBU Staff Advisors

Tara Franklin

Tara.Franklin@scouting.org

MBU Director

Melissa Ginter/Tracey Woodcock

sgcmbu@gmail.com

2. Location

The location for MBU 2023 is at Camp Osborn Boy Scout Camp in Sylvester, GA. Please refer to the map below for directions. Camp Osborn is located at 480 Camp Osborn Rd, Sylvester, GA 31791.



3. Dates

MBU is a full weekend event offered on March 17-19, 2023.

B. Administration

1. Registration fee

The fee for attending classes at MBU for the weekend is \$20 per Scout. All Leaders attending MBU will have a fee of \$10. This cost covers all materials and camp usage unless the Scout is taking a class listed below. Meals are not included in this fee (see section 9 below for details).

Registration fees for the classes below are as follows:

CPR Certification - \$7	Shooting Sports - Rifle	\$22
Woodcarving - \$20	Shooting Sports - Shotgun	\$25
Basketry - \$15	Electronics	- \$15

These fees must be paid prior to the event.

2. Cancellation/Refund Policy

Cancellation before March 10th will be considered for a full refund less \$5 to cover supplies that have already been purchased. However, in lieu of a refund, the fees can be transferred to another Scout. The Scout may choose any remaining classes still available. All refunds/transfers **must** be requested in writing. Phone requests will **not** be acceptable. No refunds will be processed after March 10, 2023.

3. Visitors

All visitors must check in and out at the Admin building upon arrival and departure.

4. Uniforms

Scouts may wear a class B uniform for this event.

5. Event Printable

MBU will not provide printed schedules, merit badge workbooks, or maps at the event. If you need these items printed for your unit there will be a \$10 fee for class schedules/maps and a \$10 fee for workbooks.

6. Health, Safety and First Aid

The MBU Health and Safety staff will be available at the Admin building if the need arises. Please have a BSA Health form on hand for each Scout attending the event.

7. Lost and Found

The MBU Lost and Found will be in the Admin building.

8. **Where to Submit Application**

Registration fees will be accepted online, in person at the South Georgia Council Service Center in Valdosta or via mail to the address listed below. Please, when possible, register as a unit, not individually. Checks should be made payable to **BSA** with a comment in the memo indicating that the check is for **MBU**.

South Georgia Council, BSA
ATTN: SGC Merit Badge University
PO Box 3741
Valdosta, GA 31604
229.242.2331

9. **Meals**

Meals will not be provided by MBU. We have scheduled 2-hour mealtimes throughout the weekend to give the Troops time to prepare and eat meals. This also gives the Scout a chance to work on their Cooking merit badge.

C. Program

1. **Badges Available**

The merit badges being offered are listed on page 10 of this guide. There will be three class sessions over the weekend. Due to popularity and availability of counselors, some classes will fill up quickly. Scouts who register early have the best chance of getting into the classes that they want. Merit badge workbooks are very helpful and can be downloaded and printed from usscouts.org for each merit badge. However, remember that the usscouts.org website can be inaccurate or outdated so refer to the official Scout requirements merit badge pamphlet for the most up to date requirements.

2. **Pre-requisites**

Scoutmasters should be aware of any pre-requisites required by the instructors (pre-requisites are listed on page 9). If the listed pre-requisites are not completed prior to the event, the Scout **will not** earn the merit badge during the weekend. You, the Scoutmaster, may send a signed statement to the instructor informing them that your Scout has completed the requirements for them to receive credit for completion.

3. **Classwork**

The Scout is responsible for completing their requirements for the merit badge. Merit badge workbooks should be filled out during class time. The counselor may request that the Scout turn in their workbook at the end of the session to be looked over for completeness.

4. **Bring to Class**

All Scouts should bring the following items to each merit badge class to avoid missing any of the class time by going back to the campsite:

Merit Badge Workbook and Pen/Pencil

Statement of completed pre-requisites

Water bottle

5. **Partial Completions**

If a Scout is unable to complete the merit badge in class, the PARTIAL completion will be noted in our records. The MBU counselors are seldom available to serve as counselors after MBU ends. The Scoutmaster may decide to have the Scout meet with the counselor later to complete the merit badge, but this must be done using two deep leadership. The arrangements must be acceptable to the Scout, their parents, the Scoutmaster, and the counselor.

6. **Trailblazer Program**

The Trailblazer program will focus on your new Scouts. This program is designed for first year Scouts to participate in rank advancement. The Scout will be placed in a group of other first year Scouts beginning on Saturday morning after breakfast. They will continue with the program throughout the day on Saturday and on Sunday morning. They will be released back to their Units on Saturday for meals and after classes are over for the day.

7. **MBU Results**

Results from MBU will be available online after the event. It will take time to get all the results entered in the system so please be patient. We are not a merit badge factory and would like to ensure that we have included everything recorded correctly before we create reports. The results will all be entered as soon as possible but could take up to a week after the event ends. At that time, you may go to <https://www.sgcbasa.org/mbu> to log in and print a report of the event record. Please check there or with your Scoutmaster before calling or emailing. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

8. **Attendance**

It is the responsibility of the Scout to attend the merit badge classes that they registered in. If the Scout is late getting to class, after attendance has been taken, it is their responsibility to let the instructor know that they were there before they leave. If they do not inform the instructor, they will be considered absent from that class and will not receive credit for any of the requirements covered during that time.

9. Class Locations

Class location maps will be posted throughout camp. Signs will be posted at each classroom location site.

D. Camping

1. This is an overnight camping event. **COME PREPARED!**
2. Scouts are required to camp with a Troop. Any Lone Scouts will be assigned to a Unit for the weekend.
3. Troops must provide two-deep leadership.
4. Leave No Trace camping will be practiced.
5. Campsite set up is the responsibility of the Troop. We will not provide tents.
6. The Guide to Safe Scouting is strictly enforced as well as all other camp regulations.
7. Remember, a Scout is Clean; please treat camp as you would your home. Leave camp better than you found it.
8. Wash hands/use hand sanitizer throughout the event.
9. **All pavilions will be utilized for merit badge classes. NO TROOPS MAY CAMP OR USE THE PAVILIONS.**

E. Conduct and Discipline

As a participant of the Merit Badge University please remember that:

The Guide to Safe Scouting policies apply and are enforced on Camp Property

1. Observe the Scout Oath and the Scout Law.
2. **NO** drugs or alcohol.
3. **NO** firearms.
4. ***NO youth or adults are to ride in the back of pickup trucks, trailers or UTVs.***
5. Park in designated parking lots **only**, **DO NOT** park in the camp sites unless your vehicle is attached to the troop trailer.
6. **NO** open toe shoes or flip flops.
7. **NO** walking around the camp barefoot.
8. **NO** running allowed in the camping area.
9. Always use the **BUDDY SYSTEM**, no exceptions.
10. ***NO flames in tents, open or otherwise.***
11. Stay on Camp Osborn property! **DO NOT** venture off.
12. **DO NOT** leave campfires unattended.
13. ***Leave what you find or see on the ground, DO NOT throw rocks, pinecones, sticks, etc.***
14. When you get ready to leave, place trash in the dumpster behind the dining hall or by the road to be picked up.
15. Make sure bathrooms are clean and better than you found them.
16. Before you leave, police your campsite. **LEAVE NO TRACE!!**
17. ***Speed limit is 5 MPH throughout camp.***
18. Remember this is a wooded area. Watch out for snakes and other wildlife.
19. Youth protection guidelines must be always followed.

20. You must be 18yrs of age and have a valid driver's license to operate any vehicle on camp.
21. ALL VISITORS MUST CHECK-IN & OUT AT THE HEADQUARTERS BUILDING!!!
22. Wear official uniform when requested.
23. Attend the classes assigned. Do not wander around or into class areas as this may distract others from their class.
24. Be personally responsible for breakage, damage, or loss of property.
25. Be courteous to other Scouts, leaders, counselors, and staff.
26. Clean up the classroom at the end of each session.
27. Clean up trash after eating all meals.
28. Absolutely NO ATV's (4-wheelers) permitted on property. Golf carts and UTV's permitted **only with prior approval** and ROHVA certification. If you would like to take the free ROHVA e-course, please go to <https://rohva.org>. A copy of this certification must be presented upon arrival.

F. Weekend Schedule

Friday 3-17-23	
5:00 – 8:00 PM	Check-in—Headquarters Bldg.
9:00 PM	Leader's Meeting— Admin Building
11:30 PM	Lights Out
Saturday 3-18-23	
6:00 AM	Breakfast
8:00 AM	Classes – Session 1
12:00 PM	Lunch
2:00 PM	Classes – Session 2
6:00 PM	Dinner
8:00 PM	Firebowl at Keenan Lake
11:30 PM	Lights Out
Sunday 3-19-23	
6:00 AM	Breakfast
7:30 AM	Scout's Own Service – You hold in your campsite
8:00 AM	Classes – Session 3
12:00 PM - 1:00	Check-out —Headquarters Bldg.

Please have **one (1)** leader attend the Leader's meeting on Friday night.

Duty rosters will be handed out at the Leader's meeting for each unit.

Unit Registration Form

(To be filled out by unit leader)

Council/District _____

Unit Number _____

Leader _____

Phone _____ - _____ - _____

Email _____ @ _____

Assistant _____

Email _____ @ _____

Scouts ___ x \$20 = \$ _____

Adults ___ x \$10 = \$ _____

Total remittance: \$ _____

Signed _____

Date _____

Mail to: South Georgia Council, BSA

Attn. SGC Merit Badge University

1841 Norman Dr

Valdosta, Georgia 31601

Office use:

Received on date: __	By: __
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This form must be completed & turned in to the Council Service Center with payment

Units **must** check in at the Headquarters building upon arrival.

Merit Badge pre-requisites for 2023 Merit Badge University

ANY OF THESE REQUIREMENTS MAY BE MARKED AS COMPLETED BY THE SCOUT PRESENTING A SIGNED STATEMENT FROM YOU THAT THEY HAVE COMPLETED THE REQUIREMENTS. THE SCOUT MAY PRESENT THE SIGNED STATEMENT TO THE MERIT BADGE COUNSELOR AT THE MERIT BADGE WEEKEND.

<u>Merit Badge</u>	<u>Pre-reqs/post-reqs</u>	<u>Merit Badge</u>	<u>Pre-reqs/post-reqs</u>
Cit. in the Community	3a; 4a & b; 5; 7a – c; 8	Cit. in the Nation	2, 3, & 6
Cit. in the World	3a & b; 4b & c;7	Cycling	Bring your own bike
Emergency Preparedness	2b, 2c, 9	Engineering	9
First Aid	1, 2a – d; 3a, c, e, f; 5a – j	Fishing	Bring your fishing pole if you one.
Reptile & Amphibian Study	8 a or b	Woodcarving	Totin' Chit

MBU 2023 Schedule

Saturday AM	Saturday PM	Sunday AM
Archery	Archery	American Business
Animal Science	Animal Science	Art
Auto Maintenance*		
	Astronomy	Aviation
Citizenship in the Nation	Basketry	Basketry
Citizenship in the World	Citizenship in the Nation	Cit. in the Community
CPR training	Citizenship in the World	CPR training
Cycling*		
	Communication	Engineering
Electricity	Dog Care	Farm Mechanics
Electronics	Emergency Preparedness	Fish & Wildlife Management
Entrepreneurship	Farm Mechanics	Forestry
Enviro. Science	First Aid	Genealogy
Farm Mechanics	Geocaching	Geocaching
Fishing	Law	Health Care Professional
Fly Fishing	Mammal Study	Home Repair
Law	Plumbing	Pioneering
Nature*		
	Public Speaking	Programming
Plant Science	Soil & Water Conservation	Reptile & Amphibian Study
Rifle Shooting*		
	Woodcarving	Traffic Safety
Shotgun Shooting*		
Space Exploration		Weather
Trailblazer Program**		
Astronomy (all but stargazing) will be held Friday night	Gun cleaning for all Rifle & Shotgun shooters in the Admin building @ 7 pm	**

*The Auto Maintenance, Fly Fishing, Nature, Rifle Shooting, and Shotgun Shooting classes are all 8-hour merit badge classes. They will last all day Saturday only.

**The Trailblazer Program will begin on Saturday morning at 8:00 AM and last throughout the weekend.

All merit badges offered have been verified by an instructor at this time. However, all merit badges are subject to change last minute due to unforeseen circumstances.

