



## Merit Badge University Program Information for Scoutmasters

Mayflower Council's MBU event provides over 1000 scouts with the opportunity to complete three merit badges during the month of March each year. Held on three Saturday mornings that month, scouts attend three merit badge classes (~ 1 hour each). A number of badges (such as Aviation) provide field trips during the "off week" to complete out-of-classroom requirements.

For first-year scouts, MBU offers a 2 hour flight-to-eagle program, which covers a selection of Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class rank requirements. This program helps these younger scouts focus on early rank requirements, while giving them the opportunity to take one merit badge class.

Typically attended by over 100 troops each year, MBU helps scouts gain access to merit badge instruction for badges that are not typically available through their troop's program or offered at summer camp.

To ease pre-event registration and post-event advancement tracking, the MBU all-volunteer staff uses online unit registration and course selection system (DoubleKnot based). Online results reporting is also provided (PDF based). This system lets unit leaders register scouts for the event and receive their results without ever visiting the council office or even attending the event. (But, please do attend with your troop; it is a very good time!)

### 2018 Merit Badge Offerings

The merit badge classes for MBU include:

Animation, Architecture, Art, Astronomy, Auto Maintenance, Aviation ♥, Bird Study, Bugling ♪, Chemistry, Chess, Cit. in the Community, Cit. in the Nation, Cit. in the World, Climbing ♥, Communication, Composite Materials ♠, Cooking ♠, Crime Prevention, Digital Technology, Dog Care, Electricity, Electronics, Emergency Preparedness, Energy, Engineering, Family Life ♣, Fingerprinting, Fire Safety, First Aid ♦, Fly Fishing, Game Design, Genealogy, Graphic Arts, Home Repairs, Horsemanship, Inventing, Law, Model Design & Building, Moviemaking, Music, Nuclear Science, Oceanography, Personal Fitness ♣, Personal Management ♣, Pets, Photography, Plumbing, Programming, Public Speaking, Radio, Robotics ♠, Sculpture, Search and Rescue, Snow Sports, Space Exploration ♠, Sports, Sustainability, Theater, Traffic Safety, Truck Transportation, Veterinary Medicine, Welding ♦\*, Woodwork, Flight-to-Eagle (< 1<sup>st</sup> Class) ♦

#### ***What do the symbols mean next to some of the merit badges in the list?***

The symbol (♠♥♣#) next to merit badges in the list indicate important information about the merit badge class at MBU. The symbols mean: ♣ automatic partial (applies to all MBs with 90-day record requirements, which are not completed at MBU), ♦ two hour class (applies to First Aid, Welding and Flight-to-Eagle), ♥ off-site field trip during off week (varies with counselor's plans), ♠ additional cost for course related materials (varies with counselor's plans), \* Welding has a maximum class size of 25, ♪ Bugling participants need to bring a bugle, trumpet, or coronet to class; they need to know how to play the instrument before attending the class.

**Note:** These symbols are not a complete list and may not cover all classes/counselors for this year's MBU.



## FAQ for Scoutmasters

### 2018 Merit Badge University Registration

Where to go for the latest information and to register:

1. Go to the 2018 MBU web page on the council website: <http://mayflowerbsa.org/MBU>
  - a. All current information about MBU will be posted to this page along with flyers and FAQ sheets.
  - b. Use the “Register Here” button on the page to register. To register, a unit leader must log on, register your group, add individuals to your registration, select their classes, and checkout. This will be available on January 1<sup>st</sup>.

### ***What are some helpful hints to guide the registration process?***

After following the online Registration link: <http://mayflowerbsa.org/MBU>

1. Click the Register button to start the registration process.
2. Click either the Create a New User Profile button or the Logon button (if you have an existing profile).
3. To create a new registration, select an existing Group from the list or use the New Group link. Follow the guidelines for naming your group.
4. Use the buttons on the Registration page to name the individuals in your group, register individuals for classes, check for schedule conflicts, and print reports.
5. All units must pay in full through Doubleknot. The cost is \$25 per scout.

### ***Does each unit support MBU with adult volunteers?***

Yes! Each participating unit is expected to provide at least 1 volunteer merit badge counselor for each 5 scouts attending and provide 1 volunteer hall monitor (or classroom 2nd adult) for each 10 scouts attending. For example, a troop with 10 scouts attending MBU provides 3 adult volunteers.

Register your group's adult volunteers at the same time you register your scouts, by emailing Mike Jones. [53mike@gmail.com](mailto:53mike@gmail.com)

All adult volunteers must have current youth protection certification and submit a CORI form to the council.

### ***Why can't I sign-up for merit badges when I arrive at MBU?***

To make sure that sufficient counselors, class space, and course materials are available, the MBU staff needs the participants to register in advance. There will be NO on-site registration at MBU.



### ***Why can't I change merit badge selections when I arrive at MBU?***

To support classes and advancement tracking a great deal of pre-MBU planning and paperwork is prepared. The MBU staff needs to focus on providing the planned courses for the registered participants at MBU. It is just not possible to support dynamic course selections on-site. There will be NO merit badge selection changes allowed after MBU registration.

### ***What are the deadlines for MBU registration?***

At some point during the month of December your troop will hold a registration night, so you may complete and submit your merit badge selections to your scoutmaster. Your Scoutmaster will submit your troop's online MBU registration through the council's DoubleKnot site during January 1 – February 10, 2018.

### ***Why does the MBU sign-up form ask for 7 merit badge selections when I'm only taking 3 merit badge classes at MBU?***

The MBU form asks for your 7 choices because scouts receive their classes based on a "first come, first served" basis. If one-or-more of your top 3 class choices are filled, your scoutmaster will need other merit badge class choices in which you would like to be registered. Make sure that you (1) Provide 7 merit badge class choices, and (2) Turn in your class choices as early as possible. You have a very good chance of getting your top 3 choices for badges, if your troop registers as early as possible in January.

### ***Why do some courses take 2 hours at each MBU session?***

Some merit badges require a lot of "hands-on" practice and demonstration. This course is provided in a 2 hour format to give counselors and scouts sufficient time to cover the material and give scouts a better chance of completing the merit badge at MBU.

### ***Do scouts participating in the Bugling merit badge need to have a bugle?***

Scouts participating in the Bugling merit badge class need to bring a bugle, trumpet, or coronet to class. They need to know how to play the instrument before attending the class. The class focuses on learning the bugle calls, not on how to play the instrument.

### ***What is the Flight-to-Eagle program at MBU?***

To make MBU more appealing to new, younger scouts (first year scouts who are registered with their troop as of the day of MBU registration), the MBU Flight-to-Eagle program teaches many of the Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class rank requirements. This program is coordinated with the Camp Squanto summer camp Flight-to-Eagle program. The MBU program focuses on requirements that are not covered at camp.

### ***Why am I being asked for my email address?***

In some cases, merit badge counselors prefer to provide advance information and assignments for their individual badge offering. Having your email address allows on hand helps to facilitate this process.



### ***What can I do to make my MBU experience fun and successful?***

The following are some ideas you should consider to make your MBU experience the best it can be:

- **Sign up for merit badges that you really want to earn and that interest you.** Yes, MBU is a great place to earn Eagle required badges. But, if you only sign up for badges that you have to take and don't sign up for any badges that you find interesting or fun, what sort of MBU experience will you have?
- **Attend every session, proudly wearing your scout uniform. MBU is a school with a school uniform (which happens to be your scout uniform).** You will get the most out of MBU if you bring your "do your best" spirit to class for every session.
- **Participate fully in class and do all your homework between MBU sessions.** How will you remember MBU? Will you finish with a row of merit badges or a folder full of partial paperwork? Your fun and success at MBU depends in large part on you.
- **Ask for MBU advice from scouts and adults in your unit AND look at your scout handbook to plan your MBU goals.** It might be fun to sign up for a merit badge with your friends (you may not be in the same class, but at least you can work on the homework together). Your adult leaders may have some suggestions that help you identify your long term goals. Checking your advancement record in your handbook might remind you about a merit badge that you meant to take at some point. Think Research. It really will improve your overall MBU experience.
- **Do NOT sign up for a merit badge at MBU, then complete the merit badge before MBU.** Because there are no registration changes permitted after MBU sign up, completing a merit badge before MBU will waste your time at MBU. **Work on something else instead!**

### ***In what form will I get my MBU class results?***

After all of the merit badge counselors have turned in class results and your group's MBU registration balance is paid, the MBU registrar processes the class results into a report that is sent to your unit.