



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY COUNCIL #141

mvc@scouting.org

www.mississippivalleybsa.org

Dear Friend of Scouting,

As we look toward the future, we know that Scouting is going to be as safe and as full of opportunities for young people as it can possibly be.

Your assistance is respectfully requested. Mississippi Valley Council (MVC) needs Certified Merit Badge Counselors to grow, then sustain, our virtual Merit Badge workshops. Eagle Valley and Shoquoquon Districts have combined their Merit Badge Counselors into one, comprehensive MVC Merit Badge Counselor pool. Again, since most merit badges will be presented in a virtual environment, physical location in a specific district is not necessary. Two-deep leadership requirements still must be met but doing so virtually presents unique opportunities to facilitate our workshops without compromising individuals to COVID-19 exposure.

Presently, we would like to “grow” our pool of Eagle-Scout required Merit Badge Counselors. These tend to be the more difficult merit badges for Scouts to undertake, complete, and earn. Every Merit Badge Counselor brings a wealth of knowledge and experiences which is eagerly absorbed by ambitious Scouts wishing to achieve that next milestone in Scouting. Therefore, we appeal to you, our GREATEST resource, to become a certified merit badge counselor for one or more Eagle-Required merit badges.

In time, we would like to expand our merit badge offerings to include most, if not all, elective merit badges. MVC is blessed to have a diverse Volunteer Scouter reserve with interesting occupations, vocations, hobbies, activities and pastimes. We have Scouters who are Railroad Engineers and Conductors, Physicians, Financial Advisors, College Professors, Guidance Counselors, Teachers, Gypsum Miners, and Electrical Engineers. How about taking a little bit of what you know and share it with a Scout or groups of Scouts? We encourage each to scour the lists of merit badges and find one or more elective merit badges that just might spark an interest in a lifelong vocation. Eagle Scout Stephen Spielberg discovered his passion for moviemaking as a Scout, making his first movie “*The Last Gunfight*” at the tender age of twelve (12) years old while earning the Photography Merit Badge.

Some merit badges can be earned through participation in school academics and extracurricular activities. Examples include American Heritage, Animation, Archery, Athletics, Automotive Maintenance, Bugling, Citizenship in the Nation, Citizenship in the World, Chemistry, Communication, Digital Technology, Drafting, Electricity, Electronics, Family Life, Farm Mechanics, Fish and Wildlife Management, Game Design, Geology, Golf, Graphic Arts, Home Repairs, Journalism, Mammal Study, Music, Nature, Nuclear Science, Painting, Photography, Plant Science, Programming, Public Health, Personal Fitness, Personal Management, Public Speaking, Reading, Robotics, Safety, Scholarship, Sculpture, Skating, Soil and Water Conservation, Space Exploration, Sports, Theater, Weather, Welding, Wood Carving and Woodwork.

Quincy Service Center
2522 Locust Street
Quincy, IL 62301
PH: 217.224.0204

Burlington Service Center
3007 Flint Hills Drive
Burlington, IA 52601
PH: 319.754.8413

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Registered Merit Badge Counselors from the Civil Air Patrol in Burlington, Iowa, could mentor the following merit badges: Aviation, Emergency Preparedness, Engineering, Orienteering, Photography, Radio, Safety, Search and Rescue; Signs, Signals, and Code; Space Exploration, Weather, and Wilderness Survival.

With registered Merit Badge Counselors from the USCG Station in Keokuk, Iowa, and/or the USCG Auxiliary in the geographic boundaries of our Council, the following merit badges could be added to our list of year-round offerings: Environmental Science, Lifesaving, Canoeing, Emergency Preparedness, Engineering, Kayaking, Motorboating, Oceanography, Radio, Rowing, Safety, Scuba Diving, Small-Boat Sailing, Swimming, and Water Sports.

Public Safety Officials (Conservation Officers, Firefighters, Police, etc.) could provide counseling for the following merit badges: Emergency Preparedness, First Aid, Crime Prevention, Fingerprinting, Fire Safety, Fish and Wildlife Management, Safety, Search and Rescue, and Traffic Safety.

Wouldn't it be exciting to earn the Railroad Merit Badge? MVC does have the registered Scouter to offer this unique merit badge!

Here is a merit badge seldom seen: Mining in Society. The U.S. Gypsum Mine in Sperry, Iowa (near Mediapolis), is just the place to explore a vital, yet little known process of extraction of mineral resources from our earth for commercial endeavors.

Becoming a Registered Merit Badge Counselor is simple, and you do not even need a Scouting background to become one. Many of the finest merit badge counselors never were members of the Boy Scouts of America. Registered Merit Badge Counselors pay no BSA membership fee but do undergo the standard background check BSA performs on all adult members. They must also complete and maintain our online Youth Protection Training. This training must be taken every two years. For more information and to complete the training, please visit <https://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/>. Registered merit badge counselors will be asked to acknowledge, on an annual basis, whether he or she would like to remain a registered merit badge counselor.

Expanding our elective merit badge offerings will give MVC opportunities to offer a wide variety of merit badge workshops during future Merit Badge Colleges, Camporees, and unique weekly offerings at Summer Camp! Most important, though, is to continue to offer Scouts the opportunity to participate in virtual merit badge workshops. Your assistance will benefit Scouts from across the nation, and some interesting places such as Europe, the Pacific, the Middle East, Central and South America. Who knows...maybe from the Arctic and Antarctic in the future!

Recommendations for merit badge counselors not affiliated with MVC are always cherished!

Sincerely,

Mississippi Valley Council Advancement Team
Heath Richmond, Council Advancement Chair - h-richmond@mycommunityfoundation.org
Doug Lanphier, Eagle Valley Advancement Chair - simple.things@aol.com
Tony Leuschen, Shoquoquon Advancement Chair - t.leuschen9@gmail.com
Heather Huebner, Program Director - heather.huebner@scouting.org

Eagle Required Merit Badges

Camping	Cycling	Personal Fitness
Citizenship in the Community	Emergency Preparedness	Personal Management (Requires 120 Day Follow-Up)
Citizenship in the Nation	Environmental Science	Sustainability
Citizenship in the World	Family Life	Swimming
Communication	First Aid	
Cooking	Hiking	
	Lifesaving	

Elective Merit Badges

American Business	Chess	Fire Safety
American Cultures	Climbing	Fish and Wildlife Management
American Heritage	Coin Collecting	Fishing
American Labor	Collections	Fly Fishing
Animal Science	Composite Materials	Forestry
Animation	Crime Prevention	Game Design
Archaeology	Dentistry	Gardening
Archery	Digital Technology	Genealogy
Architecture	Disabilities Awareness	Geocaching
Art	Dog Care	Geology
Astronomy	Drafting	Golf
Athletics	Electricity	Graphic Arts
Automotive Maintenance	Electronics	Home Repairs
Aviation	Energy	Horsemanship
Basketry	Engineering	Indian Lore
Bird Study	Entrepreneurship	Insect Study
Bugling	Exploration	Inventing
Canoeing	Farm Mechanics	Journalism
Chemistry	Fingerprinting	Kayaking

Elective Merit Badges,
continued

Landscape Architecture

Law

Leatherwork

Mammal Study

Medicine

Metalwork

Mining in Society

Model Design and Building

Motorboating

Moviemaking

Music

Nature

Nuclear Science

Oceanography

Orienteering

Painting

Pets

Photography

Pioneering

Plant Science

Plumbing

Programming

Public Health

Public Speaking

Pulp and Paper

Radio

Railroading

Reading

Reptile and Amphibian
Study

Rifle Shooting

Robotics

Rowing

Safety

Salesmanship

Scholarship

Scouting Heritage

Scuba Diving

Sculpture

Search and Rescue

Shotgun Shooting

Signs, Signals, and Codes

Skating

Small-Boat Sailing

Snow Sports

Soil and Water
Conservation

Space Exploration

Sports

Stamp Collecting

Surveying

Textile

Theater

Traffic Safety

Truck Transportation

Veterinary Medicine

Water Sports

Weather

Welding

Whitewater

Wilderness Survival

Wood Carving

Woodwork