

## Top 21 FAQs for MBCs at University of Scouting

- 1. Will it cost me anything?**
  - a. If you would like to receive the University of Scouting patch, then you will need to register as staff and pay the staff fee (\$5 including shipping).
  - b. If you do not want the patch then there is no cost involved other than giving of your time.
  
- 2. What if I can teach a merit badge, but I also want to attend some of the adult course offerings at U of S?**
  - a. You can do both! If you want to attend as a participant for adult course offerings, be sure NOT to register to receive a patch as a merit badge counselor.
  - b. Instead, just register as an attendee (\$20 registration fee) and we will keep you on the list as an MBC as well. You will be both staff and participant!
  
- 3. How do I specify the pre-requisites I require for my merit badge course?**
  - a. Each MBC will be asked to provide a short description of their merit badge that also includes any pre-reqs as needed.
  - b. This information will be listed in the course catalog and emailed to the youth participants
  
- 4. How will I know how many Scouts I have in my class, or who they are?**
  - a. An attendance roster will be provided digitally to each instructor as their course approaches.
  
- 5. Will my time zone matter?**
  - a. All course session will be scheduled in CST.
  - b. You can adjust your time choice for your merit badge according to what suits your schedule.
  
- 6. Will I need video interaction?**
  - a. It is preferred that all MBCs have video capability for leading their course.
  
- 7. I am not from GSLAC, so can youth from my council also attend?**
  - a. Absolutely! Youth from all across the nation will be invited and welcomed to this event.
  - b. We encourage merit badge counselors from all involved councils to share U of S with their Scouts. Any Scout can register to attend a course!
  
- 8. Do I have to be an adult to teach a merit badge course?**
  - a. It is preferred that MBCs be registered leaders that have completed YPT training and are listed as a merit badge counselor within their home council.
  
- 9. Will there be a standardized format for MBCs to use during their Zoom presentation(s)?**
  - a. Yes, there will be a PowerPoint provided to all MBCs that should be shown at the start of the Zoom. It will cover an introduction, rules, etiquette, expectations, etc.
  - b. After the initial introductory PowerPoint is shown, MBCs may use their preferred presentation for the merit badge information.
  
- 10. Will I need to have another adult in the Zoom “room” with me?**
  - a. Yes, all MBCs will need to have an additional adult online with them.



- b. If you have a preference for an adult to be in your room, you can let us know and we will list them as your second adult. Second adults do not have to be registered BSA leaders.
- c. If you do not have another adult that is able to be your second adult, please let us know and we will see if we can recruit a volunteer to sit in on your course.

**11. Can I record the first Zoom merit badge course and just show it over and over?**

- a. No, unfortunately we cannot record Zooms where youth are present.
- b. See the rules for Digital Safety & Online Scouting Activities here:  
<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/safety-moments/digital-safety-and-online-scouting-activities/>

**12. Can I use other types of media during my presentation or does it have to just be me lecturing?**

- a. Yes! You can use any other media that will help you communicate your merit badge as long as it stays within the Guidelines to Safe Scouting. Some choices may include the following:
  - 1. Videos
  - 2. PowerPoints
  - 3. Pictures & Illustrations
  - 4. Slideshows (outside of PPT)
  - 5. PDFs (can also be emailed as handouts after the course)
- b. If you would like to create a PPT for your course and need help, you can email a request to [UofS.GSLAC@gmail.com](mailto:UofS.GSLAC@gmail.com) for assistance.

**13. How are we going to give out merit badge cards?**

- a. All merit badge cards will be sent out digitally.
- b. We will provide detailed information on how this is completed prior to the start of the event.

**14. What should I wear to present the merit badge course?**

- a. We love to see merit badge counselors in their Activity uniforms for merit badges if possible.
- b. If a merit badge counselor does not own a uniform, then they may wear a Field uniform (class B) or otherwise nice attire suitable for the Zoom.

**15. Can I give the Scouts “at home” assignments for them to complete skills or activities pertaining to the merit badge?**

- a. Yes, absolutely! We want the merit badges to be as hands-on and interactive as possible.
- b. In a Zoom setting, the primary way to make that happen is to involve the Scouts in activities that they do in their home or with their Troops or Patrols.
- c. If your merit badge requires them to learn skills or complete activities in such a way, you can assign those to be completed “at home” and independent of the Zoom presentation.
- d. Some “at home” assignments may be given as pre-requisites, but others may work well to be assigned as the course progresses to keep the Scouts involved.

**16. Can I change any of the requirements for the merit badge I am presenting?**

- a. National standards dictate that no merit badge requirements can be changed, added, or removed from those presented in a merit badge.
- b. For all National updates on Covid-19 modifications, please see the following website:
  - 1. <https://www.scouting.org/coronavirus/covid-19-faq/>



**17. Are the merit badge worksheets (such as those provided at MeritBadge.org) required for completion of the merit badge courses? Can they be required by the merit badge counselor?**

- a. Merit Badge Worksheets, while popular and useful, are not required, and cannot be required, to completed merit badge courses.
- b. BSA actually prefers that merit badge worksheets not be used, but does not ban them from use, check out more details here:
  1. <https://blog.scoutingmagazine.org/2015/01/13/merit-badge-worksheets/>

**18. Do the merit badge course sessions (if I need more than 3 hours or want to split up my sessions across days) have to be on consecutive days?**

- a. No, you can schedule your course sessions as you like to suit your schedule.
- b. Time slots for merit badge sessions extending over multiple days must match the originally chosen time slot (if it is 4:00p – 4:50p in the first session, all other sessions must be at the same time).
- c. Here is an example schedule for a merit badge course taught across multiple sessions and days:
  1. First Aid Session 1: Monday 4:00p – 4:50p
  2. First Aid Session 2: Wednesday 4:00p – 4:50p
  3. First Aid Session 3: Saturday 4:00p – 4:50p

**19. Can I issue partials or do the merit badges presented have to be completed during the U of S?**

- a. The short answer is yes, you can issue a partial.
- b. University of Scouting’s goal with merit badge courses is to present quality counseling for Scouts to be able to pursue the completion of their merit badges according to their planning and determination.
- c. *The above goal does not include the intention to be a merit badge mill.*
- d. Counselors can provide the means to complete the merit badge during the session, if possible, by assigning pre-requisites and/or completing the requirements during the Zoom.
- e. Counselors may also provide a partial completion to those attending the session with the possibility to complete the merit badge after working through additional requirements after the Zoom is over.
- f. No Scout is guaranteed a completed merit badge “blue card” just by merely attending the Zoom session for the assigned merit badge.

**20. If I am teaching a merit badge, but would also like to sign up to be a Moderator in another merit badge course, can I do that to learn how others are presenting or experience a new merit badge?**

- a. Yes! If you would like to help out another MBC, or just learn something new, please let us know and we will also list you as an available Moderator according to your availability.
- b. Please send an email to [UofS.GSLAC@gmail.com](mailto:UofS.GSLAC@gmail.com) to sign up as a Moderator.

**21. Can I recommend a quality MBC that I think would be interested in helping?**

- a. Absolutely! Please send an email to [UofS.GSLAC@gmail.com](mailto:UofS.GSLAC@gmail.com) and copy the individual you would like to recommend as an MBC for the event. We would love to meet them!

