

Mining In Society Merit Badge FAQ

Visit www.MineralsEducationCoalition.org/MiningInSocietyMB to:

- Learn more about Boy Scouts of America merit badges.
- View the Mining In Society Merit Badge introduction video.
- Read the Mining In Society Merit Badge requirements.
- Review the BSA merit badge counselor resources.
- Purchase the Mining In Society Merit Badge pamphlet.
- Find the steps to becoming a MiS merit badge counselor.
- Purchase a MiS Merit Badge baseball cap.
- View mining education videos.

For additional mining education resources, visit www.MineralsEducationCoalition.org. Be sure to visit the K – 12 Education section and the Public Awareness & Outreach > Other Great Resources sections.

General Questions

Q: Is it helpful to have Scouts go through the Geology merit badge before starting the Mining In Society Merit Badge?

A: The Mining In Society Merit Badge does not need to be completed in a certain order of other badges. The badge does complement several other badges; geology, sustainability, energy, environment, camping and others.

Q: Mining has always been so important. Why is a mining-related badge only now being introduced by the Boy Scouts of America?

A: The original Mining badge was created in 1911 and discontinued in 1937 due to lack of Scouts electing to earn the badge. Efforts to reinstate a mining-related badge have resulted in the Mining In Society Merit Badge's launch in 2014. The badge focuses on the importance of mining in our everyday lives and introduces Scouts to the components of mining and careers in mining. In order for this badge to succeed, it needs enthusiastic and knowledgeable Scout Leaders and Counselors to encourage Scouts to earn this badge.

Badge Requirements

Q: Will the Mining In Society Merit Badge be considered a STEM merit badge for STEM and NOVA purposes?

A: There is an annual review process to determine which badges qualify for STEM designation. Mining in Society will be considered at the next review.

Q: Has NASA contributed input to the pamphlet regarding future space mining?

A: NASA was not involved directly in the development of the pamphlet, but public photos and information from NASA's website has been included where appropriate.

Q: Where can I find additional resources for my Scouts to complete the requirements?

A: Resources can be found on page 91 of the Mining in Society pamphlet and on www.MineralsEducationCoalition.org/MiningInSocietyMB.

Q: When setting up mine tours, is there a person or department at the mining company to contact to schedule visits and other merit badge opportunities?

A: The first contact will usually be through a mine company's public information officer or tour department. If the company does not have anyone in these positions, ask for the mine manager or other person in authority. If any employee of the mine is involved in Scouting, it will usually be helpful for that person to work internally in the company to reach the proper person who can give permission for the tour.

Q: About how many sessions or hours should be expected to earn the Mining In Society Merit Badge?

A: Approximately three sessions or 12 hours should be planned to complete all of the requirements. There are a variety of experiences which can be done in group settings and some which Scouts should choose to do individually. While the pamphlet contains all the information that is needed, experiences such as visiting a mine, mining-related museum, interviewing someone in the mining industry, viewing mining videos, etc. need time for learning and discussion. This badge is definitely not done in one day.

Mining In Society Merit Badge Counselors

Q: I want to become a Mining In Society Merit Badge counselor. What are the next steps?

A: Find the steps to become a Mining In Society Merit Badge counselor at www.MineralsEducationCoalition.org.

Q: How do I find a local Mining In Society Merit Badge Counselor to help my Scouts?

A: Contact your local Boy Scout Council to find a Mining In Society Merit Badge counselor near you. Visit www.MineralsEducationCoalition.org/MiningInSocietyMB to find your local Council. Since the badge is so new, there may not yet be a MiS counselor in your area, but ask them to help you promote the badge and recruit counselors. You could be the first!

Q: Who can become a Mining In Society Merit Badge counselor?

A: Anyone with the knowledge of the importance of mining and minerals can become a MiS Merit Badge Counselor. You don't have to be employed by the mining industry.