Google is your friend!

Rather than writing down URLs to resources mentioned in this presentation, it's often easier to just Google "BSA" and a document number, e.g. "BSA 524501" (Adult Application). So we'll frequently give you that sort of reference, instead of an actual link.

Your Host

Charlie Zimmerman
- Communications Specialist, Ideation Communications
- Industry Marketing Rep. (Retired), Caterpillar Global Mining
- Scouting Subcommittee Chair, Minerals Education Coalition
AGENDA

• Who are “Scouts BSA”
• What Are Merit Badges & Why?
• Overview of the Mining in Society Merit Badge
• What Does a Merit Badge Counselor Do?
• Getting Started: How to Become One
• Guidelines for Large Group Training
• Q&A

Note: A handout for this presentation is available at bit.ly/mec-scouts

Scouts BSA

• Formerly “Boy Scouts”
  - Program for boys & girls, ages 11-17, in separate troops.
  - Organization still known as BSA. (“Boy Scouts of America”)
  - Cub Scouts also now includes both boys and girls, in separate dens.
  - Venturing (ages 14-21) has always been co-ed.

Does not preclude our working with Girl Scouts USA, which is a totally separate organization.

What Are Merit Badges & Why?

• The primary goal of merit badges is personal growth for the Scout. They are a way to explore new areas of interest, career fields, and hobbies.
• Merit badges, along with leadership & other personal growth opportunities, are part of the Scout advancement path, which is based on experiential learning.
• The steps in the advancement system help a Scout grow in self-reliance and in the ability to help others.
• A Scout must earn twenty one merit badges (13 required, 8 elective), along with meeting other requirements, to earn Eagle Scout, the highest rank a Scout can achieve.
What is the “Mining in Society” Merit Badge?

- Elective merit badge introduced in 2014 by the Boy Scouts of America, with substantial input from SME.
- The “Mining in Society” title alludes to the societal and economic aspects of mining, and the badge requirements subsequently lead to an exploration of what we mine, where and how.
- Complements other existing merit badges - such as Geology, Energy, Sustainability – but is a much deeper exploration of mining in particular.
- Also an elective part of the Nova Awards program, which combines cool activities with learning about STEM-related fields. (Google “STEM Nova Awards” for more information.)

“Enhancing our youths' competitive edge through merit badges.”

Over 25,000 Badges Earned!

<table>
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We need to reverse the trend, because we know from experience this badge can have a tremendous impact!

Ask a Scout... ABOUT MINING!

24th World Scout Jamboree Scout Mundial North America 2019
Overview of the Merit Badge

Pam Wilkinson
• Geologist/Educator
• Past Chair, Minerals Education Coalition
• Member, MEC Scouting Subcommittee

EIGHT primary requirements, with multiple options for meeting them, help Scouts learn and understand:

• The importance of mining in society
• What is mined – where and how
• Mining technology today and in the future
• Sustainability, safety and conservation practices in the industry
• Careers in mining

Get the Pamphlet!

Google “BSA 618952”
Order from ScoutShop.org
Or visit your local Scout Council office

Understanding the Importance of Mining

Requirement #1:
• Select 10 different MINERALS OR ROCKS. For each one, name a product for which the mineral is used.
• What is the role mining in FARMING?
• Where in the world are the selected rocks/minerals mined?
What is Mined – Where and How?

**Requirement #2: MAPPING**
- Scout shows the location of 5 different mining/processing facilities in their state.
- Scout knows what is being mined/processed there.
- Scout knows the uses of the materials from these properties?
- Scout knows if the facility is on the surface or underground.

SAFETY

**Requirement #3:**
- What are the potential hazards in active mines? What do miners today do to mitigate those hazards? PPE, self-rescuers, robots, monitoring equipment, etc.

**Requirement #4:**
- What are the dangers in abandoned mines? Trip and fall, bad air, water, visibility, diseases, dangerous animals, etc.
- What does “Stay OUT - Stay ALIVE” mean?

Learn about MINING in your community!

**Requirement 5:**
Goal: Scout learns from personal experience about modern mining!

Can be completed doing one of six options:
- a. Tour a virtual mine (on-line)
- b. Visit a mining/mineral museum
- c. Tour an active mine
- d. Visit/tour a mine equipment supplier
- e. Learn about rock processing
- f. Learn the history of a mine
Reclamation, Environmental Impacts and Sustainability

Requirement #6:

a. Scout must learn about reclamation at a modern mining site: what is being done today?

b. What is reclamation in mining? Compare it to the ‘leave no trace’ principle in scouting.

c. Why should mining do reclamation? Make certain the scouts understand that the BSA Summit Bechtel Family National Scout Reserve is on reclaimed coal mine lands.

Mining Technology Today And in the Future

Requirement #7:

What is the future of MINING? Scouts choose ONE of these topics:

a. Interplanetary: Why? What? When?


d. Economics: Current vs past?

Mining Careers

Requirement #8:

Do ONE of the following:

a. Meet with and interview a person who is or has worked in the mining industry

b. List three career opportunities in the mining industry. Research one of them.

c. Visit a career fair/community college and learn about education and training needed for careers in the mining industry. The Scout should focus on a career that interests them.
What Does the Merit Badge Counselor Do?

As a merit badge counselor, your mission is to join fun with learning. You are both a teacher and mentor as the Scout works on a merit badge and learns by doing. Your hands-on involvement could inspire a Scout to develop a lifelong hobby, pursue a particular career, or become an independent, self-supporting adult.

- Your duty is to be satisfied that each Scout who comes to you meets all the requirements for the merit badge.
- You do this by helping Scouts overcome the different hurdles of the requirements and making them aware of the deeper aspects of the subject through their learning experience.
- You may tell about your own experiences to help positively reinforce the subject matter.
- When the Scout has completed all the requirements, you sign off on the Blue Card and the Scout returns the completed card to his unit leader.

Exhibit A: The BLUE CARD

Accept no substitutes — really!
Minerals Education Coalition bit.ly/mec -scouts  

Signing **The Blue Card**

Scouts get a signed Application for Merit Badge ("blue card") from their Scoutmaster before beginning work on a merit badge.

As the Scout completes the requirements, you (the counselor) will initial and date the specific requirement (see the front of Part B in the diagram) to show that the Scout has completed it.

*Part B*

---

After all requirements have been completed:
- Complete and keep Part A of the card for your records;
- Sign the back of Part B where it asks for "signature of counselor";
- Complete and sign the back of Part C (top section); and
- Give the Scout the rest of the card (Parts B and C).

The blue card is the nationally recognized merit badge record. This tool makes the recordkeeping easier for the Scout, the merit badge counselor, and the unit leader.

*Part A Part B Part C*

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What Does a Merit Badge Counselor **NOT** Do?

You may **not** tack on new requirements or extra work. Don't make the requirement more difficult—or any easier—than stated. A Scout may undertake more activities on his own initiative, but they cannot be pushed to do so.

- Also, while you may guide and instruct a Scout on the subject matter, they must do the work themselves.
- You will **NOT** meet alone with the Scout... you will only meet when the Scout has a buddy, parent or family member with them. (More on this in a bit...)
- On the plus side, you will **NOT** pay a fee... There is no registration fee if your only role is Merit Badge Counselor.
Am I in this alone? NO!

Many resources are available...
1) Mining in Society merit badge pamphlet
   Obtain at local council office or order at ScoutShop.org
2) MEC Scouting Page (bit.ly/mec-scouts)
3) Online BSA training for Merit Badge Counselors
   Example: Essentials of Merit Badge Counseling
4) MEC Scouting Subcommittee (mec@smenet.org)
5) Local BSA council and district

Getting Started

Step 1: Determine your local BSA council
The BSA operates through 272 local councils, with each council responsible
for a geographic area that could be a single city or an entire state. Within
each council are multiple districts.

Merit badge counselors register
with the council, and are approved
by the district in which they live.

To find your local BSA council:
• Google "local bsa council"
• Click on "Local Council Locator"
• Enter your Zip code and click "Get info"

Getting Started

Step 2: Complete the BSA's online Youth Protection Training
In order to register, merit badge counselors are expected to complete BSA
Youth Protection Training (YPT). This training can be done through The BSA's
Online Learning Center.

The Boy Scouts of America seeks to create a safe environment for young
people and adult leaders to enjoy the program and related activities. BSA
Youth Protection Training helps preserve that environment.

To enroll in and complete YPT:
• Use Google Chrome browser for PC or Safari for Mac.
• Go to my.Scouting.org
• Follow instructions to create a login and take the training.
• Print and save a PDF of your certificate of completion.

NOTE: You do not have to already be a registered member of the Boy
Scouts of America to take Youth Protection Training.
Getting Started

Step 3: Complete the BSA Adult Leader Application and Background Check Authorization form

This entails visiting or contacting the local council to obtain the forms. Or Google “BSA 524501” (Adult Application) to download PDF.

- Register using Position Code 42 – Merit Badge Counselor (There is no fee for this position)
- Also complete and include the Merit Badge Counselor Information Form (see next slide)
- Include a copy of your YPT certificate of completion and Background Check Authorization form when returning the Adult Leader Application.

The council will then process the application (every applicant is screened) and you should receive a membership card by mail once the process is completed.

Note - You do NOT need to be affiliated with a district or unit!

Step 3 (cont’d): Merit Badge Counselor Information Form notes

Google “BSA 34405” (Merit Badge Counselor Information Form)

Reminder: You do NOT need to be affiliated with a district or unit!

If qualified, you may register to be a counselor for more than one merit badge.
Getting Started

Step 4: Become Familiar with Scouting and the Merit Badge process

Buy and review copy of the Mining in Society merit badge pamphlet
Available at your local Council office (or online via link on the MEC MiS web page)

Visit Scouting.org – the official web site of the BSA
  • Review the Guide for Merit Badge Counseling pamphlet (“BSA 512055”)
  • To learn more about the merit badge program, see section 7 of the Guide to
    Advancement (“BSA 33088”): “The Merit Badge Program”
  • Also review Guide to Safe Scouting (“BSA 54415”)

New for 2020: Merit Badge Counselor online training

1. Go to my.Scouting.org…
2. Click Menu > My Training > Training Center
3. Click Scouts BSA, select “Scouts BSA - Merit Badge Counselor Training”

Getting Started

Step 5: Make your presence known!
Your name will be added to a list of merit badge counselors, but then it’s up to Scouts to ask their Scoutmasters about earning Mining in Society. Or not…

Can You Sell Your Subject?
Scouting units constantly seek programs for their meetings. Contact your local council for help in reaching out to unit leaders in your area. Offer to attend a troop meeting to talk about mining and the Mining in Society merit badge.

Plan a 10- or 15-minute presentation designed to engage your audience. Then, offer to meet at the end of the meeting with those who are really interested and make a plan with the Scout leader.

Go Where They Are
Many councils have “merit badge universities” or other events designed to facilitate Scouts earning merit badges in a group setting. Contact your local council about upcoming events where you might be able to offer Mining in Society. This is a great way to engage a local SME Section!

Getting Started

Step 6: Make your presence known – to US!
Register with the MEC’s Mining in Society Merit Badge Counselor Roll Call!
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/misrollcall
Guidelines for Large Group Training

Jessica Nelson
- University of Kentucky
- Outreach Chair, UK SME Student Chapter
- President, Women in Mining
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Guidelines for Large Group Training*

Merit badge classes, fairs and universities allow Scouts to pursue several badges in one day or weekend, often working with highly qualified counselors in unique settings. However, organizers and unit leaders must make sure Scouts and counselors aren’t taking shortcuts to boost badge counts.

* Adapted from the November-December 2019 issue of Scouting magazine

So is Group Instruction Permitted?

Yes. It’s acceptable and even desirable at times. However, each Scout must actually and personally complete each requirement before the counselor signs off.

What does ‘actually and personally’ mean?
- Each Scout must complete the requirements as written.
- If a requirement says “show,” the Scout can’t just watch a demonstration.
- If a requirement says “discuss,” the Scout can’t just listen to a discussion without participating.
Is Group Instruction Better for Certain Badges?

It can be when the benefits are compelling.

Factors include strong interest from Scouts, limited access to counselors, or availability of special resources (group mine tours, etc.) that would enhance the learning experience.

Who Can Teach in a Group Setting?

All instruction must be overseen by an adult member of the BSA who is registered as a merit badge counselor, approved for the specific badge and current in Youth Protection Training. However, it’s OK to enlist non-registered guest instructors, speakers and other volunteers to facilitate learning, as long as YPT practices are being followed at all times.

Don’t go it alone! Group instruction can be challenging— and youth protection rules require at least 2 adults be present. Local Scout councils may be able to help with planning. Additional volunteers can help with small group discussions, individual requirement check-offs, event logistics, crowd control, etc.

How Big May Merit Badge Classes Be?

There’s no set limit, but the preference is for smaller groups, perhaps no larger than a patrol in size. Larger groups are feasible if qualified instructors are assigned to subgroups to ensure Scouts receive individual attention.
Requirements, Partials & Prerequisites

What about requirements that can’t be completed in a group setting? It’s perfectly acceptable — perhaps even preferable — for a Scout to leave a merit badge event with only some requirements completed. The class can focus on requirements that work best in a group setting.

The Scout can then work with a counselor (subject to Youth Protection guidelines) to finish the requirements.

Can an event have prerequisites?
Yes. Communicate to Scouts which requirements they must do either before or after the event. If the actual work done can’t be brought to the event, pictures and letters from other merit badge counselors or unit leaders are the best forms of documentation.

Summary: Large Group Training

Group instruction ideally focuses on requirements best worked on in a larger setting, but shouldn’t result in Scouts earning a badge just for being present.

Spending more time on a few requirements, versus rushing to complete them all, provides a more valuable and meaningful experience.

Don’t feel pushed to complete the badge.

Summary: Large Group Training

Set expectations with the Scouts and leaders ahead of the event:

• Share a list of requirements that may/must be done before event, and what evidence the Scout should provide to gain your sign-off.

• Identify the requirements Scouts will work on during the event.

• Suggest ways Scouts can complete remaining requirement(s) after the event, and how they can arrange for completion/sign-off with you or another counselor.

A sample agenda and outline for a Mining in Society workshop is available on the MEC Mining in Society web page:
Q & A

If you have questions, please feel free to reach out to the MEC or any of the MEC Scouting Subcommittee Members.

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What About the BSA Bankruptcy?

In February 2020, the national organization filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy (which is also known as a financial restructuring) to achieve two goals:

1. Compensate victims who were harmed during their time in Scouting, and
2. Continue carrying out the mission of Scouting for years to come.

FACT: It’s heartbreaking that individuals took advantage of organizations like the Boy Scouts to harm innocent children, and even deepest apologies can’t possibly make things right.

But the BSA is taking responsibility for what happened in the past and doing all it can to protect youth in Scouting programs.

What We Need to Know About This Process

• First, Scouting continues... locally AND nationally.
  • Local councils are not a part of the Chapter 11 filing, and the bankruptcy process is designed to allow the national organization to restructure financially, not be dissolved.

• Second, Scouting is safer today than ever before.
  • The BSA has made major strides in youth protection, including the commitment of the volunteers and staff who work every single day to make Scouting the safe and amazing program it is today.
  • EVERY registered volunteer completes Youth Protection Training and goes through a BSA background check.

This includes all SME/MEC Mining in Society merit badge counselors and Jamboree volunteers.
What We Need to Do Now
The short answer is: Keep Scouting....
   And do it with pride!

• Tell others why you believe in Scouting. Start with how the program has benefited you, your family or people you know, and why you dedicate your precious free time and/or resources to the Scouting movement.

• Make it a point to remind fellow mining professionals and others in your communities why Scouting is an important pillar in society.

• Keep in mind that today’s Scout may be tomorrow’s colleague, and that all Scouts will depend on mining as they go through life!

Scouting shines brightest when it can help others. With our support, the BSA will be serving youth and communities through its vital mission for many years to come.

https://MineralsEducationCoalition.org