



Old Colony Council



Merit Badge University



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Southeastern Regional Voc Tech

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FAQ for Scouts Regarding Merit Badge Selections

Why can't I sign-up for merit badges at MBU?

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

Why can't I change merit badge selections 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 on the first day of MBU.

What are the deadlines for MBU registration?

Old Colony Council troops will receive their MBU registration packets at the January 2010 district round table meetings. The registration data and payments are due at the February 2010 district round table meetings. At some point during the month of January your troop will hold a registration night, so you may complete and submit your merit badge selections to your scoutmaster.

Why does the MBU sign-up form ask for 12 merit badge selections when I'm only taking three merit badge classes at MBU?

The MBU form asks for your 12 choices because scouts receive their classes based on a priority system (not a "first troop to register" system). Each scout selections are prioritized by: (1) Is a parent/guardian serving as an MBU counselor, (2) scout rank, (3) scout age, and (4) priority order of merit badge selections. So, a scout who: has a parent serving as a counselor and has a higher rank and is older does have a better chance of getting his top three merit badge selections.

Why does the First Aid merit badge take 2 hours at each MBU session?

The First Aid merit badge requires 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.

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

Old Colony Council provides a Flight-to-Eagle program at Camp Squanto during summer camp. This program covers many of the outdoor skills required for Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class ranks. To make MBU more appealing to new, younger scouts (Webelos who have crossed over from Pack to Troop before MBU), the MBU Flight-to-Eagle program covers many of the Tenderfoot, Second Class, and First Class rank requirements that are NOT covered during the summer camp program.

It's my first time at MBU. What merit badges should I select?

For your first time at MBU, you might want to select badges with less potential homework and a greater possibility of completion. The MBU staff recommends Art, Bird Study, Crime Prevention, Dog Care, Medicine, Reading, Space Exploration, and Sports as good possibilities for first time MBU attendees.