

The 2021 Sol Leiman Merit Badge College Program Information



December 4-5, 2021

**Miramar High School
3601 SW 89th Ave
Miramar, FL, 33025**

MERIT BADGE COLLEGE 2021 UPDATES

This year, you will see many changes to our program including price, class sizes and health requirements. These changes are driven by the COVID-19 restrictions placed on us by the School Board and scouting, as well as the increase in costs for everything from food to facilities. Our goal is to provide the highest quality program possible for your scouts, and we appreciate your understanding of the needed changes.

- Participants will be required to wear masks and are encouraged to carry their own hand sanitizer. This is based on Broward Schools and BSA requirements.
- The Five Arrows program has been separated from Merit Badge College and will be a stand-alone event held on May 14, 2022 at Camp Elmore.
- The Scout must be 1st class or above to take Eagle Required Merit Badges.
- Several Merit Badges now have age requirements of 13 or 15 due to difficulty and maturity expectations.
- Several new classes have been added to provide opportunities for 1st year scouts to take classes more appropriate to their experience level.
- Recording the Scout's completion of Pre-requisite and Post-requisite requirements will be the responsibility of the troop. Merit Badge Counselors will not be marking a merit badge as complete, only indicating which requirements were actually covered during the class for those scouts who were prepared to complete those requirements.
- Scouts and registered adults must be registered under the Troop login, not as individuals in Tentaroo.
 - Troops must pay the \$75 Unit Fee and register at least 2 adults in addition to the Scout registrations. Adults may be instructors or non-instructors.
 - Troop registration will ask whether or not the troop will be camping and which nights. There are NO busses provided.
 - Troop registration will ask how many people will be eating each meal. It is important that we get an accurate count to ensure that enough food is purchased.
- As per the Guide to Safe Scouting, two deep leadership is required on the premise at all times.
 - However, they are not required to always be in the courtyard.
- This is a volunteer run event and therefore all troops need to do their part providing adults to teach or assist with merit badges and wherever needed such as the Trading Post, Kitchen, metal working, woodcarving and others.
- This year, there will be only one counselor and one assistant registration for each session..
 - All classes will have lower limits than in the past.
 - The instructor must be an adult who is registered as a Merit Badge Counselor for the class being taught and have current YPT.
 - The assistant must be a registered adult with current YPT. They will be there as the 2nd adult for 2 deep leadership and to support the instructor as needed.
 - A female adult is required in each class where a youth female is attending.
- To register as an instructor, please register in Tentaroo as an Instructor with your unit, then select the classes you want to teach. You must be registered with council to teach that class. If you need to register as a MBC, or update your class list, contact Denise Innes and she can confirm your status and help you get registered if needed.
- If you register as an instructor and have someone you want to be your assistant, have them register with their unit for the same class you are teaching (MBC A – Art and ASST A – Art are working in the same room for that session).
- **On November 1st, any class without an assigned MBC Instructor will be cancelled.**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MERIT BADGE COLLEGE 2021 UPDATES.....	1
TABLE OF CONTENTS	2
WEBSITE AND GENERAL INFORMATION.....	4
FEES.....	4
IMPORTANT DATES.....	4
GENERAL SCHEDULE.....	4
2021 CLASS OFFERINGS.....	5
REGISTRATION & PAYMENT.....	2
UNIT REGISTRATION	2
SCOUT & ADULT REGISTRATION	2
SCOUT CLASS SCHEDULING	2
SCHEDULE CHANGES/MODIFICATIONS.....	2
MAVERICK SCOUTS	2
MERIT BADGE COUSELORS AND VOLUNTEERS.....	3
LEADERSHIP.....	3
PAYMENTS	3
PROGRAM	4
WHICH CLASSES ARE RIGHT FOR MY SCOUTS?	4
RIGHT TO LIMIT OR CANCEL CLASSES	4
FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED	4
QUALIFICATIONS FOR ATTENDING EAGLE REQUIRED MERIT BADGES	4
MERIT BADGE REQUIREMENTS	5
CONCERNS.....	5
SERVICES & EXTRA CIRRICULAR ACTIVITIES.....	6
FOOD CONCESSIONS.....	6
ENTERTAINMENT	6
TRADING POST	6
SCOUT SHOP.....	6
RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES.....	6
WHAT SHOULD I BRING?	6
BLUE CARDS	7
CAMPUS.....	7
UNIFORMING	7
COLLEGE AND CLASS VENUES	7
COLLEGE MEAL PLAN	7
PARKING	7
ARRIVAL AND CHECKIN	7
CAMP ELMORE	8
EQUIPMENT and PROVISIONS.....	8
COOKING FIRES and FUELS.....	8
TRANSPORTATION BETWEEN VENUES.....	8
CHECK-OUT & DEPARTURE	8
CLASS ATTENDANCE AND ADVANCEMENT REPORTS.....	8
CONDUCT and DISCIPLINE	8
COLLEGE CODE	8
PROPERTY DAMAGE.....	9
HEALTH & SAFETY.....	9
UNIT SUPERVISION.....	9
UNIT MEETING SPOT.....	9
SECURITY	9

FIRST AID STATION.....	9
MEDICAL FORMS	9
ID BADGES.....	9
EMERGENCY ALERTS	10
FIRE	10
SEVERE WEATHER AND LIGHTENING	10
LOST PERSON SEARCH	10
PERSONAL INJURY	10
ABSENCES, ARRIVALS and EARLY DEPARTURES	11
HISTORY.....	11
ABOUT MERIT BADGE COLLEGE.....	11
THE FIVE ARROWS ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM.....	11

WEBSITE AND GENERAL INFORMATION

Information about registering units and scouts, class scheduling, Counselor registration, volunteering, fees, and everything “Merit Badge College” is included in this guide. A link to this guide, important updates and the registration link can all be found on the 2021 Sol Leiman Merit Badge College website at <https://sfcbsa.org/events/sol-leiman-merit-badge-college-4/>.

FEES

\$75 per unit registration (non-refundable)

Youth –

\$40 per youth attendee until October 31st

\$50 per youth from November 1st – November 19th.

Adults – There must be a minimum of 2 Adults registered per troop.

Free - Adults who agree to instruct or assist in at least 4 hours of classes

\$20 per adult for Non-Instructor adults

Once you sign onto the website, you can begin selecting classes right away. However, the unit registration fee of \$75 must be paid at the time you register, or your class scheduling will not be saved. **NOTE: Each unit should only have one User-ID/Password for the Unit.** Multiple User-ID/Passwords will result in multiple unit registration fees being applied.

IMPORTANT DATES

See the 2021 Sol Leiman Merit Badge College link in the “Events” section at <http://www.sfcbsa.org/> for these important dates

As College attendance exceeds 1,600 Scouts and 500 Scouters, the staff needs “lead time” to properly plan for camping space, meals, classes and instructors. Scouts also need time to prepare for classes that require work to be done before the event. Last minute changes seem inevitable, but in order to minimize the chaos, the staff has set some pre-event deadlines.

Class Cancellation if no counselor registration	October 31, 2021
Early Bird Pricing Ends	October 31, 2021
Unit registration cutoff	November 19, 2021
Scout & Adult registration cutoff	November 19, 2021
Scout schedule revisions cutoff	November 19, 2021
Payments deadline	November 19, 2021
Merit Badge College	December 4-5, 2021

GENERAL SCHEDULE

The following times are subject to change. Please consult the latest schedule posted on the College web site.

Camp Elmore opens for unit campsite check in	.....	Friday, 5 PM
Unit registration/Check-in at Camp Elmore – Main Pavilion	.....	Friday, 8 PM – 9 PM
Cracker Barrel for Camping Units (SPL & 1 adult per unit required)	.....	Friday, 9 PM
Unit registration Check-in at Miramar H.S.	.....	Saturday 7 AM – 6 PM
Merit Badge Counselor registration/Check-in	.....	Saturday 7 AM – 10 PM & Sunday 7 AM – 8 AM
Cracker Barrel in the Cafeteria (SPL & 1 adult per unit required)	.....	Saturday 1 PM

Classes	Saturday:	8:30 AM – 12:30 PM; 2 – 6 PM; 7:30 – 9:30 PM
	Sunday:	8:00 AM – Noon

2021 CLASS OFFERINGS

The following classes are being offered this year. We are looking for registered Merit Badge Counselors for each class plus 1-3 assistants depending on the class. MBC positions must be registered as Merit Badge Counselors with South Florida Council for the specific class they are teaching. If you are interested in being an MBC and need to register with SFC, please contact Denise Innes at denise.innes@gmail.com for information on what you need to do.

Additional Classes may be added if instructors are available.

Any class without an MBC by November 1, 2021 will be cancelled and youth will need to select different classes.

American Business	Landscape Architecture
American Labor	Law
Animation	Leatherwork
Architecture	Medicine
Art	Metalwork
Astronomy	Model Design and Building
Athletics	Moviemaking
Automotive Maintenance	Music
Basketry	Oceanography
Chess	Orienteering
Citizenship in the Community	Personal Management
Citizenship in the Nation	Photography
Citizenship in the World	Pioneering
Coin Collecting	Plumbing
Collections	Programming
Communication	Public Health
Crime Prevention	Public Speaking
Digital Technology	Railroading
Disabilities Awareness	Robotics
Dog Care	Salesmanship
Electricity	Scholarship
Electronics	Scouting Heritage
Emergency Preparedness	Search & Rescue
Engineering	Signs, Signals & Codes
Fingerprinting	Skating
Fire Safety	Space Exploration
First Aid	Spanish Interpreter Strip
Game Design	Sports
Genealogy	Stamp Collecting
Geocaching	Textile
Golf	Traffic Safety
Graphic Arts	Truck Transportation
Indian Lore	Weather
Insect Study / Reptile & Amphibian Study	Welding
Inventing	Wood Carving

REGISTRATION & PAYMENT

UNIT REGISTRATION

A \$75 unit registration fee is required for all units. If the unit does not select this on their own, the administrator will add it the account and payment will be required before on-line registration closes in order for the unit registration to be complete. The unit registration fee is not a deposit to be applied toward other fees and will not be refunded in the event your unit withdraws its registration. Units must register by midnight of the indicated date on page 4.

ALL REGISTRATIONS ARE TO BE THROUGH **ONE** TROOP ACCOUNT at <https://southfl.tentaroo.com/>.

If you do not know your unit login or need to create a new account, please contact the College Dean, Jeanine Kinsey at songbirdscout@gmail.com. If multiple accounts are used, your Unit will be charged \$75 per account in Tentaroo. All registration for adults, instructors, scouts, and class schedules is done through the same account.

On-Site registration WILL NOT BE POSSIBLE.

SCOUT & ADULT REGISTRATION

Individual registrations and class selection must be entered before midnight of the indicated cut-off date. Every Scout attending Merit Badge College must be currently registered with the Boy Scouts of America in a troop. **This is not a Cub Scout event.**

South Florida Council has a blanket liability policy for the protection of BSA registered leaders and Scouts. It is important, therefore, that adult Scouters and Scouts be properly registered in the Boy Scouts of America.

The registration fee provides for camping fees, merit badge classes, insurance, participation patch, meals (Saturday breakfast, lunch, dinner, and Sunday breakfast) and tools for handicraft merit badges. Note: additional fees for handicraft merit badges may be required. Please check Course Pre-requisites on the registration page on the College's website for any fees or pre-requisites. Handicraft items will be paid for at registration and then available for pickup at the college.

All units must register at least 2 adult Scouters who will be on-site to provide the required 2 deep leadership as per the Guide to Safe Scouting. This is for all units at the event, not just for those camping.

SCOUT CLASS SCHEDULING

Scouts' schedules must be finalized by midnight of the indicated date (page 4).

Note: After the "Schedule revisions" deadline, the website will not accept additional class registrations, but will allow you to run reports, including unit invoices and Scout's schedules.

NOTE: Be sure to "COMPLETE" the checkout process to save your scouts' schedules, even if you plan to come back later to pay. If your account shows the notice "There are changes or payments for this event in your cart. Please remember to checkout soon to finalize your changes," your changes are not saved, and your scouts may lose their spots in classes you signed them up for. Final payment must be made by the close of on-line registration, or all registrations will be cancelled.

SCHEDULE CHANGES/MODIFICATIONS

Scout's class schedules may be modified at any time up to midnight of the date noted above for 'Scout Revisions'. Unit registrars need to ensure the Scouts' schedules are complete and appropriate at that time. **On-site class/schedule changes will only be allowed for exceptional circumstances.** Scouts requiring schedule changes must be accompanied by an authorized Unit leader. Scout's changing classes will be required to have a "Change of Class" form in order to be allowed into the alternate class (i.e., no "walk-ins" are allowed into any classes).

MAVERICK SCOUTS

Our program is **NOT** designed for "Maverick Scouts". However, Scouts of units not registered to attend Merit Badge College may participate. To register as a "Maverick Scout" an ACCOMPANYING ADULT must register and pay

the \$75 Unit Registration Fee. Additionally, the individual participation fee for each accompanying adult and Scout must be paid. A “Maverick Scout” must be accompanied by their parent or legal guardian. Two or more “Maverick Scouts” must be accompanied by 2 deep leaders authorized by their parents or legal guardians.

MERIT BADGE COUSELORS AND VOLUNTEERS

There is no charge to register as a volunteer or Merit Badge Counselor **who serves at least 4 hours**. These individuals will be provided meals as well. Please note that the Merit Badge College provides the classrooms, camping area, meals and equipment to help provide an environment conducive for learning. **It is up to each troop to help provide instructors for the Merit Badge program.** The College **expects every unit to have adults volunteer their assistance to the College (as counselors, assistants, Food Service and/or other needed assistance).** ****Please note the classes without counselors as of October 31, 2021 will be cancelled and the Scouts will have to be registered in another class.****

LEADERSHIP

It is the policy of the Boy Scouts of America that ALL Scouting trips and outings maintain “TWO DEEP LEADERSHIP”, one of whom must be age 21 or older. Because of the need for adult volunteers to help run the College, **each Unit is expected to provide at minimum of TWO adults to volunteer their assistance to the College. We are especially in need of Merit Badge Counselors.** All adults must be registered with the BSA and have current Youth Protection Training. Counselors must be registered as Merit Badge Counselors in South Florida Council for the class(es) they are teaching.

For any questions about this program please contact the Dean of the SL-MBC, Jeanine Kinsey at songbirdscout@gmail.com.

PAYMENTS

Unit registration must be completed on-line. Payments may be made:

- On-line, with payment via credit card through Tentaroo
- Payments may also be made in person at the South Florida Council Service Center, or
- By mailing payment to the South Florida Council Service Center, or
- By phone (305-362-0020), with payment by credit card or unit account debit.

Checks should be made payable to **South Florida Council, BSA** and addressed to:

Merit Badge College
South Florida Council, BSA
15255 Northwest 82 Avenue
Miami Lakes, Florida 33016

Final payment, including the unit fee, registration fees based on the number of adults and scouts registered to participate in Merit Badge College, and all Class fees for supplies, must be made online, or received at South Florida Council no later than “Close of Business” November 19, 2021 or the scouts and unit may be dropped from the schedule.

REFUNDS

The unit registration fee is non-refundable. On or before the “Scout & Adult Registration” cutoff date, the Scout and Adult registration fee is refundable, provided a written refund or email request is received by the SL-MBC Advisor, Cliff Freiwald (Cliff.Freiwald@Scouting.org). Refunds will be issued via the same method they were made approximately sixty 60 days after the event to the “Leader of Record” per the Unit’s registration. After the “Scout & Adult Registration” cutoff date (page 4), all amounts paid are non-refundable if the Troop or Scout does not attend.

PROGRAM

WHICH CLASSES ARE RIGHT FOR MY SCOUTS?

Merit Badge College is an opportunity for Scouts to meet with qualified counselors and earn merit badges needed for advancement toward Eagle Scout. For those merit badges having limited availability of counselors, it is a genuine opportunity that otherwise might have been missed. It is also an opportunity for new Scouts to begin their advancement toward First Class. Statistics prove that Scouts who attain First Class in their first year of scouting stay in the program.

Different Merit Badge Courses at the College are offered for different ranks. Scouts below the age 13 or 15 may not have access to some Merit Badge classes. **Eagle required Merit Badges are restricted to FIRST CLASS Scouts and above.** For details see the “Rank Rules” link on the web site. Please note that we will be using the 2021 advancement requirements.

NOTE: There are several classes this year where the requirements to be covered at the event will be listed. **All other requirements will be pre- or post-requirements for completion of the merit badge and are the responsibility of the troop.**

Remember it is you, the unit leader, who has final say as to how many and which merit badges a Scout may take at Merit Badge College. We offer a wide variety of merit badges, so take into account the merit badge counselor resources available to your troop and place the restrictions you deem appropriate for your Scouts attending Merit Badge College before approving their merit badge class schedules. The Council suggests that 50% of a Scout’s merit badges be earned outside of their immediate troop. The College helps in meeting that goal.

RIGHT TO LIMIT OR CANCEL CLASSES

We reserve the right to limit registration for Merit Badge College or for any course. We also reserve the right to cancel courses or activities as needed. Although we will work to avoid having to cancel classes, those classes where a Counselor has not volunteered will be cancelled. NOTE: To ensure classes are staffed by Counselors that have had sufficient time to prepare for classes, **those classes that do not have a counselor volunteered to teach as of October 31, 2021, will be cancelled.** The Unit leader will have until midnight November 19th to reschedule scouts that were signed up for a class that had to be cancelled.

FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED

We have established class size limits to ensure a quality experience for your Scouts. Class attendance must be registered using our official web site. Troops or Scouts will be admitted to other activities on a first paid, first served basis. Many classes fill up quickly, so the sooner you register, enter schedules and make the payment, the better opportunity your Scouts have to register for classes they want.

NOTE: Be sure to “COMPLETE” the checkout process to save your scouts’ schedules, even if you plan to come back later to pay. If your account shows the notice **“There are changes or payments for this event in your cart. Please remember to checkout soon to finalize your changes.”** your changes are not saved, and your scouts may lose their spots in classes you signed them up for.

That said, it is also important to schedule wisely. A scheduled and paid Scout is a seat taken, not available to anyone else.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR ATTENDING EAGLE REQUIRED MERIT BADGES

Because Eagle required merit badge classes have been consistently oversubscribed in previous years, it has become necessary to use the following equal opportunity qualifier to control the enrollment in these classes. Additionally, Counselors have repeatedly reported that certain Merit Badges are not appropriate for younger, less experienced Scouts.

Star ranked (or higher) scouts shall be qualified to attend any of the Eagle required merit badges at Merit Badge College. **First Class scouts** are able to attend a select list of Eagle required merit badges. See the “Rank Rules” link on

the web site. **Scouts who have not achieved First Class** at the time their registration is submitted should concentrate on other Merit Badges. Because our registration system does not support rank restrictions, we have used age restrictions of 13 and 15 to restrict access to some classes to enforce the restrictions mentioned here.

MERIT BADGE REQUIREMENTS

Merit Badge requirements are revised from time to time. Merit Badge College will use the latest requirements as specified in the official BSA publications for all merit badges. Be certain the Scouts of your unit understand their obligation to fulfill the latest requirements and are in possession of the latest edition of merit badge books.

Some merit badges require pre-MBC and/or post-MBC counseling. Other merit badges require only at-MBC counseling to successfully fulfill all the necessary requirements. Check the list of prerequisites with your Scouts to determine what requirements should be completed before Merit Badge College. We suggest that each scout/parent look at the prerequisite link on the website for the most current merit badge requirements and those that should be completed before the college in order to be prepared to complete the requirements being offered on-site for the specified merit badge.

Many Merit Badge College Counselors will be available by e-mail, telephone and personally to advise Scouts needing post-college counseling. The requirements completed during the College for each merit badge will be recorded on the Class Attendance and Advancement Report provided to the unit post event. We will only mark which requirements were completed at MBC, not whether a badge was “Completed” or not. **It is the responsibility of the unit to determine final completion status for their scouts.**

CONCERNS

In the past, Counselors have expressed concerns that:

- Some Scouts lacked preparation for the merit badges they sought.
- Some Scouts never bothered to obtain a copy OR READ the merit badge book
- Scouts attending class were NOT in proper uniform
- Some Scouts failed to show up for their class
- Some Scouts tried to get into a class for which they were not registered.
- **Webelos Scouts attended the program prior to crossing over to a Scout troop**

All Scouts must be enrolled for the merit badges they attend. **Absolutely NO “WALK-INS”** will be allowed in Merit Badge Class. If the Scout is not on the class roster, a ‘class registration’ slip must be presented to the instructor before the Scout may attend the class. The registration slip can be obtained from the Registrar’s Office. If the scouts are not properly prepared and have not completed the pre-requisites, they may not be able to complete the requirements that are covered in class.

Work with your Scouts to register and prepare them appropriately. We have a sophisticated on-line registration system, which is critical to keeping records and planning for courses. Please work your Scouts’ registration out carefully.

It is imperative that each unit work with their Scouts in preparing for the College. A list of pre-requisites for each merit badge is available on the website. The list has been developed to enable scouts to complete merit badges. Completing the prerequisites before College will help ensure that the Scouts receive full credit for a badge, rather than receive a “partial”.

SERVICES & EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

FOOD CONCESSIONS

There will be food and snacks available Saturday morning through Sunday morning from the Merit Badge College Concession Stand. There will be a limited menu of pizza, hot dogs, snacks and drinks, etc. The concession stand is not open during lunch. **NO FOOD CAN BE CARRIED INTO THE CLASSROOM BUILDINGS OR AUDITORIUM.**

ENTERTAINMENT

There will be entertainment consisting of movies provided throughout the weekend. Movies will be shown in the Auditorium on the same schedule as Merit Badge classes.

TRADING POST

The trading post sells the supplies required for merit badges that require specific resources. Specific handicraft merit badges require kits must be purchased online with the registration. Tickets will be in the unit packet to redeem for the kits at the trading post. Please check the MBC prerequisites list on the website for specific supplies that must be purchased

Additional Merit Badge College merchandise is available for sale including: cups, T-shirts, polo shirts, pens, pads, pencils, pins, hats and much more.

SCOUT SHOP

The Scout Shop at the South Florida Council Service Center in Miami Lakes has all the Merit Badge Books and other needed equipment and supplies.

RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Units may wish to schedule some fun activities as well as classes. Units should make arrangements for these activities on their own, **BUT PLEASE CLEAR THEM AT COLLEGE HEADQUARTERS. REMEMBER THAT PROPER ADULT SUPERVISION IS ESSENTIAL. ABSOLUTELY NO ONE SHALL BE ALLOWED ON THE FOOTBALL FIELD, TRACK, ANY EQUIPMENT IN OR AROUND THE ATHLETIC FIELDS, AROUND THE MAINTENANCE AREAS, OR ANY AREA WHERE MBC CLASSES ARE NOT TAKING PLACE.**

WHAT SHOULD I BRING?

Personal gear: In addition to the “normal stuff”, ensure you include: **Field (Class “A”) uniform (REQUIRED FOR ALL MEALS & CLASSES)**; poncho or rain gear; **DRINKING CUP** or Water Bottle (must have own cup). Bring pens, pencils, paper, loose-leaf binders, clipboards and any other school supplies needed for advancement and merit badge classes. Attendees should also bring hand sanitizer and masks if still required by Broward Schools and/or Scouting guidelines.

Each Scout is required to be in possession of the Merit Badge Book for the class they are attending. **SUCCESS COMES TO THOSE SCOUTS WHO ARE, INDEED, PREPARED.** Scouts not in possession of the Merit Badge Book may, at the counselor’s discretion, be denied admittance to the Merit Badge Class. It is recommended, therefore, that any merit badge books, equipment, materials or supplies be purchased prior to arriving at Merit Badge College.

Given the number of scouts enrolled in each merit badge class, we are unable to provide individually needed equipment. Scouts need to review the requirements for the merit badges they seek and bring whatever special equipment that’s needed. Please NOTE:

- Finger Printing MB classes - all necessary equipment, materials and supplies will be provided.
- Leatherwork, Metalwork, Basketry and Textile tools will be provided
 - Consumable products, e.g., leather, metal, basket and textile kits, **will be paid for with the registration** and available for pickup at the MBC Trading Post

- Space Exploration – rockets and rocket engines must be purchased with the online registration and will be available for pick up at the MBC Trading Post. Additional engines are available for purchase on-site at the trading post.
- Electronics, Plumbing and Welding – the kit will be paid for with the online registration and available for pick up at the MBC Trading Post

BLUE CARDS

Do not bring “Blue Cards” to College. Each unit will receive attendance and advancement reports post event. Your unit advancement chairman and unit leader may complete blue cards for your scouts based on these reports, should your Council Service Center require them. The South Florida Council retains this information for one year to verify records and answer inquiries.

CAMPUS

UNIFORMING

The official Merit Badge College Field Uniform (Class “A”) must be worn by all Scouts for classes and activities including meals. The Field Uniform (Class “A”) consists of Scout shirt (buttoned and tucked in), shorts/trousers, belt and socks. No sandals are allowed.

COLLEGE AND CLASS VENUES

The 2021 Sol-Leiman Merit Badge College will be held at **Miramar High School, 3601 SW 89th Avenue, Miramar, FL 33025**, in Southwest Broward County. A College Site Plan will be included in the check-in packet for each unit. They will also be posted at strategic locations throughout the campus. Most Merit Badge College classes and Five Arrows advancement classes will be conducted in a classroom atmosphere at Miramar High School. Where appropriate, classes will be held outdoors.

COLLEGE MEAL PLAN

A complete meal program, starting with a hot breakfast on Saturday and ending with a cold breakfast on Sunday, is included in the Merit Badge College registration fee. We cannot accommodate special needs/requests for meals. All meals will be served at the school’s cafeteria. Your ‘Name-tag’ is also your meal ticket and **MUST** be worn to obtain access to the meals. **ALL PARTICIPANTS ARE TO PROVIDE THEIR OWN DRINKING CUP.** The food staff and cafeteria will NOT have cups for participants. Drinking cups will be available through the Trading Post. **Field (Class “A”) uniform is required to be worn at all meals.**

PARKING

Vehicles are to be parked in the lots adjacent to the school, as designated by Merit Badge College staff. At NO TIME are vehicles allowed onto the grass areas of the school. Please follow directions and guidance provided by on-site staff when arriving, dropping off, or loading/unloading gear. **ALL VEHICLES MUST BE PARKED IN MBC DESIGNATED PARKING AREAS ONLY.** MBC designated parking areas are adjacent to the school. Signage will be properly placed to assist you. Unauthorized vehicles or vehicles parked in non-designated areas are subject to towing, at the owner’s expense.

ARRIVAL AND CHECKIN

Please stress to parents that they are not to drop off their child until the unit leader has arrived. Unit leaders, please be on time. Also, make sure that a meeting place has been communicated to the scouts and parents and that they have the phone number of the leader on-site if they need to contact you.

Camping Units: Please do not arrive before 5:00 pm Friday at Camp Elmore where you will receive your troop’s campsite assignment. Your assigned campsite will be sufficient for the number of adults and scouts registered.

Unit Check-in: Unit registration for troops will be available Friday night at Camp Elmore for units that are camping, and those who are local and wish to come to camp. Those who do not pick up their packets Friday night will be checked

in on Saturday morning at Miramar High School. **To minimize congestion, please do not bring the entire troop to the registration area. Only bring the personnel required to complete paperwork and carry identity/schedule badges.**

CAMP ELMORE

Equipment may be driven to the campsite, and the unit trailer may be parked in the site driveway. All vehicles must be returned to the parking lot immediately after equipment is dropped off.

EQUIPMENT and PROVISIONS

It is the responsibility of each unit to provide all camping equipment and provisions needed at their campsite. Please keep personal belongings and camp gear secure at all times.

All garbage, refuse, rubbish and trash at troop campsites is that unit's responsibility and must be placed into TIED PLASTIC TRASH BAGS that are properly disposed of into designated refuse dumpsters or carried out on departure.

COOKING FIRES and FUELS

Because cafeteria meals are part of the program, and due to school restrictions, no cooking is permitted at camp or at the school.

TRANSPORTATION BETWEEN VENUES

There is no transportation provided between Miramar High School and Camp Elmore. Units are responsible for transporting scouts between the venues.

CHECK-OUT & DEPARTURE

Troops may check out at any time between 10:30 am and 12:30 pm Sunday using the following procedure.

Non-Camping Units will be asked to police specific "common use" areas of the campus. These assignments are to be completed before the unit will be dismissed by the College staff. After the successful inspection by a College Staff Member ONE unit leader should pick up their packet, which will include a Merit Badge College patch for each registered, paid adult leader & Scout.

Camping Units need to pick up their packet before leaving for camp where you will receive your camp cleanup assignment. Units must thoroughly clean the entire unit campsite area, clean your shared restroom facility, and properly dispose of all refuse. Send a Scout to the Camp Master who will conduct a thorough inspection of the unit campsite and assigned cleanup area, correcting any deficiencies on-the-spot and releasing the unit to leave.

CLASS ATTENDANCE AND ADVANCEMENT REPORTS

Advancement records for your Scouts will be available online after the event, and an email will be sent to the Unit Contacts in Tentaroo with instructions to access them.

CONDUCT and DISCIPLINE

COLLEGE CODE

The Scout Oath, The Scout Law and the Outdoor Code shall be the code of Merit Badge College. Scouts and adult leaders are to respect the privacy of others. They shall not walk through or stand around other encampments without first obtaining the expressed permission of the scouts or scouters occupying the campsite.

As with other scouting events, the use of alcoholic beverages, firearms, sheath knives and fireworks are positively prohibited. Use of motors, power plants and generators by attending units is not authorized.

Remember that we are guests of Miramar High School. **There shall be NO LITTERING and NO DEFACING or DESTRUCTION of any dwelling or structure. Adequate adult supervision must be provided by each participating unit.**

Discipline is the responsibility of the Scoutmaster or other designated adult leader in charge of the unit. A scout whose conduct is not consistent with the College Code will be referred to their Unit Leader and the Dean of the College for appropriate disciplinary action. Units unable to control the conduct of their Scouts will be directed to leave the College and or campgrounds immediately.

PROPERTY DAMAGE

Each unit and its Sponsoring Organization shall be liable, in the full amount, for theft and/or property damage caused by its adult leaders or Scouts. The Boy Scouts of America and South Florida Council, BSA does not provide insurance protection to units or sponsoring organizations for theft and/or property damage.

HEALTH & SAFETY

UNIT SUPERVISION

This is a unit event. Each unit is responsible for ensuring that there are two registered adults on-site at all times and that all youth and adults know how to contact them. These adults may teach classes as long as the unit knows where they can be located in an emergency. Upon Check-in, the Registration Office must be given the name and phone# of the primary on-site adult.

UNIT MEETING SPOT

Each unit should have a previously agreed upon meeting spot at camp. Parents should know where this is for drop-off and pick-up purposes, and all attendees should know where it is in case of an emergency alert. A map of the campus is available on the website so that this spot can be communicated to scouts before you arrive at the school. This is a unit event, and parents need to know where they can find the unit when they arrive as the Registration Office cannot help them find you.

SECURITY

Each registered scout and adult scouter will be issued an ID badge that **MUST** be worn at all times. Visitors are required to sign-in at the College registration office and obtain a Guest ID Badge. **Anyone not having an authorized MBC ID Badge will be asked to leave the MBC campus.**

Because the public has access to the campus, units will need to exercise their own vigilance. Secure personal effects and valuables under lock & key. Report any incidents or problems to College Security, located at College Headquarters.

FIRST AID STATION

A First Aid Station will be located on campus in the Registration Office. Illness or injury treated at the unit level **MUST** also be reported and logged at the First Aid Station. Serious illness or injury will be referred for medical attention, as required.

MEDICAL FORMS

Each unit is required to have current medical forms on-site for all attendees including youth and adults. The on-site adult contact must be able to locate these for the First Aid station in an emergency.

ID BADGES

Identification badges will be distributed at unit check-in only for registered Boy Scouts and adults. The ID badges will be your Troop's meal ticket and admission to classes. The **BADGE MUST BE PROPERLY WORN AT ALL TIMES ON THE LANYARD PROVIDED.** Your ID badge is also your meal ticket. You will **NOT** be granted access to

meals without your ID badge. If your ID badge is lost, you and a unit leader must go to the Registrar's office for a replacement.

EMERGENCY ALERTS

In the event of an emergency due to fire, severe weather, a lost person or the need to evacuate the area, please follow the directions below.

What to do first

When an Emergency Alert is sounded, all scouts and adult scouters shall immediately return to a previously agreed upon spot for your unit.

The adult unit leader in charge shall take a roll count of all scouts and adult scouters for whom they are responsible and send a runner to the College Security Office at the Registration Office to report unit status and await further instructions from the College Dean.

College Staff shall return to their assigned areas, secure their areas and then immediately report to the College Security Office for further instructions.

The College Dean will dispatch College Staff, with advisories and instructions, to adult unit leaders. It is essential that adult unit leaders follow the College Dean's orders or instructions during an Emergency Alert.

FIRE

If the School Fire Alarm goes off, all attendees should follow the fire escape plan for the room they are in. Once clear of the building, they should return to the Unit Meeting Spot, or contact the unit leader if that spot is not accessible to notify them of their location. The adult unit leader shall direct the Troop to follow any additional instructions issued by the College Dean.

SEVERE WEATHER AND LIGHTENING

This is an indoor event for the most part. In the event of severe weather, anyone who is not indoors already should move into the cafeteria for the duration of the storm.

If you hear thunder, go to the nearest shelter or building. Be sure you are not the tallest object around or the object closest to the clouds. You must make yourself as short as possible, covering as little of the ground as possible. Be aware that lightning can strike you from as far away as 5 miles!

LOST PERSON SEARCH

In the event of a lost person, the name and description of the lost person and an assigned search area will be given to each adult unit leader in charge.

After the assigned search area has been covered, the adult unit leader in charge will send a runner to the Security Office to report completion and await further instructions. The search will continue until the missing person is located or until the Emergency Alert is recalled by the College Dean.

PERSONAL INJURY

In all instances involving emergency first aid, the adult leader at the scene shall dispatch a runner to the College Safety Officer at the First Aid Station for additional assistance. The College Safety Officer will take charge upon arrival at the scene. Under no circumstances should a seriously injured person be moved without proper assistance. All accidents or injuries requiring first aid must be reported to the College Safety Officer.

ABSENCES, ARRIVALS and EARLY DEPARTURES

Units are required to check-in with the Registration Office upon arrival and check-out when they leave the campus. The Registration Office is required to have the contact information for an adult, or adults, who will be on-site at all times that any youth member of the unit is on-site. No youth is to leave the campus without properly signing out with their unit. **Parents should be informed that this is a unit event, and that they cannot check their child in or out through the Registration Office.**

HISTORY

ABOUT MERIT BADGE COLLEGE

Advancement is the keystone of the Scouting program because it builds a scout's confidence, gives them self-esteem and motivates them to stay in scouting for the long haul. Advancement is the engine that builds membership and participation in all other scouting activities.

During the past several years, earning merit badges had become increasingly difficult for most Scouts. District Counselor lists were outdated, and many Counselors were unavailable. Earning merit badges often became difficult, and sometimes impossible.

Merit Badge College was started in 1992 under the direction of then Advancement Chairman Sol Leiman. Since then, it has become the largest and most important activity for Scouts in the South Florida Council. Merit Badge College is not a program that guarantees advancement. But, rather, it is an opportunity for Scouts to meet with qualified counselors, to help them earn the merit badges they need for advancement. For those merit badges with a limited availability of counselors, it is a particularly important opportunity that otherwise may have been missed. MBC is an important opportunity for you, as the adult unit leader, to begin or continue a vigorous advancement program for your Troop.

Merit Badge College has helped scouts advance further, kept more youth in Scouting and, in several instances, even helped deserving scouts who otherwise might have missed the opportunity, to become Eagle Scouts. We have seen the results. **THE PROGRAM WORKS!**

Merit Badge College will continue to work, only if you participate, and help your Scouts to succeed. Start now to discuss with your Scouts what merit badges they plan to earn. Encourage them to wisely schedule classes and to use their time.

Be sure your scouts understand their obligation to be prepared, if their expectation is to complete a merit badge. If projects are required, see that they are completed prior to arrival at Merit Badge College. See the link to prerequisites on the web site.

It is the unit, however, who determines, finally, whether or not the scout has satisfactorily completed the requirements for a merit badge.

THE FIVE ARROWS ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM

Merit Badge College enhanced the program so that all scouts could participate rather than only those First Class, Star, Life and Eagle Scouts for whom it was originally intended.

In 1996 the college instituted the Five Arrows program, targeted to Tenderfoot, Second Class and First Class Scouts. The Five Arrows curriculum concentrates on the "early rank" advancement requirements in the Five areas of Scout Craft, Citizenship, First Aid, Physical Fitness and Personal Development. From Scout to First Class, each rank requires a demonstration of knowledge and proficiency in each of the Five Arrows areas.

Over the years this program has grown, as has the demand for more Merit Badges to be offered. In 2020, it was decided to separate the Five Arrows program into its own event to be held in April or May each year to support the new crossover scouts before they head to summer. Camp.