



Executive Summary
Merit Badge University
at
West Virginia University



MBU@WVU 2023

West Virginia University hosted the 11th Annual Merit Badge University (MBU@WVU) in collaboration with the local Mountaineer Area Council (MAC) of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) on February 25th, 2023. There were **317 Scouts**, ages 10 through 17, registered for this one-day event, working on **348 merit badges**. Of these Scouts, 53% were from the 12 counties of BSA's Mountaineer Area Council (MAC), while the remaining 47% were from elsewhere in WV, **Washington D.C., and 4 other states (MD, OH, PA, VA)**.

There were **27 different merit badges offered in 31 classes**. Badges that were offered this year were: Art, Astronomy, Aviation, Bird Study, Chemistry, Chess, Citizenship in the Nation, Citizenship in the Society, Composite Materials, Crime Prevention, Dentistry, Energy, Engineering, Entrepreneurship, Environmental Science, Fingerprinting, First Aid, Geology, Journalism, Law, Mining in Society, Nuclear Science, Programming, Public Speaking, Robotics, Space Exploration, and Sustainability. Of these, **8 Badges were first-time offerings at MBU@WVU**.

In offering these badges, there were 82 WVU faculty, staff, and students who were instructors and assistants; 21 BSA volunteers helped in classrooms and registration; and 8 WVU staff members managed logistics across 3 hub locations on campus.

The 3 hub locations were the Law Center, Health Sciences Center, and the Mineral Resources Building. MBU Counselors utilized 13 campus buildings providing a diversity of exposures to WVU's campus assets; these buildings were: Advanced Engineering Research Building (AERB), Aerodynamics Laboratory (AEL), Art Museum (ART), Civil Engineering Laboratory (CEL), Crime Scene Garage (CSG), Engineering Research Building (ERB), Engineering Sciences Building (ESB), Health Sciences Center (HSC), Law Center (LWC), Mineral Resources Building (MRB), National Research Center for Coal and Energy (NRCCE), Student Recreation Center (SRC), and White Hall (WHI). Additionally, field trips were taken to the WVU Arboretum, on the PRT to multiple locations, and the LP Mineral LLC, Humphrey Surface Mine.

Our Opening Ceremony was kicked off with a volunteer Scout from MBU@WVU leading the Pledge of Allegiance, Scout Oath, and Scout Law. Our introductory speaker was Greg Corio, Assistant Vice President for Outdoor Youth Advocacy and Initiatives of the Brad and Alys Smith's Outdoor Economic Development Collaborative (OEDC), who spoke about the WVU-BSA partnership and the upcoming Jamboree at the Summit. Our keynote speaker, Dr. Stephen Pachuta, Dean of the School of Dentistry, spoke about his career path and what Scouting has done for him personally and professionally, as well as the great opportunity West Virginia University has through this event to make an impact in the lives of many Scouts. BSA Mountaineer Area Council Scout Executive, Scott Hanson, concluded by speaking about the Mountaineer Area Council and gratitude for WVU putting on this great event.

BSA Adult leader training was offered at the Law Hub; Dan Marner, Mountaineer Area Council Training Chair, taught 15 adults; Hank Burton, Troop Leader, held a National Scout Jamboree leader meeting with 10 adults; and 10 adults worked on completing their Wood Badge ticket.

At the MRB hub, Lisa Hanselman, Director of the Mountaineer Parents Club, gave a talk to parents with Scouts that are near college age, discussing and advising on their transition to college life.

WVU Rec Center, with support from Ben Orendorff, offered Scouts and families the ability to use the Rec Center facilities, while BSA Lifeguard, Jade Fisher, conducted Swim Test sessions in 3 sessions that served 33 Scouts.

A steering committee was chaired by Alison Conroy, Project Manager for the Brad and Alys Smith's Outdoor Economic Development Collaborative (OEDC). Also serving on the committee were Amy Garbrick, WVU Executive Assistant to the President's Office and VP of Programming for BSA-MAC; Andrew Hoover, Director of WVU's Science Behind the Sport program with the OEDC; Bethany Bailey, Administrative Assistant for the OEDC; and Mike Torries, Environmental Health and Safety Chemical Hygiene Specialist and District Commissioner for BSA-MAC. Additional advisory support and consultation was provided by Greg Corio, Assistant Vice President for Outdoor Youth Advocacy & Initiatives of the OEDC; and Scott Hanson, Scout Executive for BSA-MAC.

MBU helps fulfill WVU's service mission, and allows youth a WVU college campus experience, which is a significant recruiting opportunity for WVU to reach talented, high-performing youth who will be considering college choices. Plans are underway for MBU@WVU 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

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