



Executive Summary
Merit Badge University at
West Virginia University



MBU @ WVU 2018

West Virginia University again hosted Merit Badge University (MBU @ WVU) in collaboration with the local Mountaineer Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America, as well as the Black Diamond Council, Girl Scouts, on February 24, 2018. There were 301 Boy and Girl Scouts, ages 11 through 17, in attendance at this one-day event, working on 334 merit badges. Of these Scouts, 39% were from Monongalia, Marion, Preston, or Taylor counties, with another 16% from elsewhere in WV, while the remainder were from five other states. MBU is a regional event.

There were 20 different merit badges offered, in 22 classes, ranging from Citizenship in the World, Robotics, Fingerprinting, and Dentistry, to Cooking, Sustainability, and Emergency Preparedness (provided in concert with the Mon County Health Department), among others. In offering these badges, there were 19 WVU faculty, staff, and upper level students who were instructors and assistants, alongside 10 alumni and other community supporters.

A steering committee chaired by Dan McNeil, Eberly Professor of Public Service, guides WVU's MBU, and includes Paul White, Ken Shanes, Don Miller, Kim Helmick, and Tony Wayne. Logistical and other support for MBU @ WVU 2018 was provided by Greg Corio, Executive Director for Campus Recreation and Outdoor Education, as well as Ryan Sigler of the Statler College of Engineering and Mineral Resources, and Kim Helmick of the School of Medicine. Also involved were faculty, staff, and students from the Eberly College of Arts & Sciences; Davis College of Agriculture, Natural Resources and Design; College of Business & Economics; School of Dentistry; School of Medicine; and the University Police. WVU's BSA Partnership/ Scouting Initiative and Jerry Lang provided patches for Scouts and volunteers, as well as other support. Accompanied by parents or Scout leaders, and with the WVU Rec Center as a base, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts traveled across campuses with WVU Student Guides, experiencing campus life. WVU's "Mr. Mountaineer" and cheerleaders were on hand to welcome the Scouts; other activities included experiments with the WV Water Research Institute, therapy/service dogs, a football toss with the US Air Force, and a drone demonstration by Civil & Environmental Consultants. MBU brings together units throughout the University as "ONE WVU."

Student organizations mobilized to help register and guide Scouts at MBU, including Psychology Club, Psi Chi Psychology Honorary, Lambda Omicron/Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity, and Engineering ambassadors and clubs. Helping to realize WVU's teaching mission, MBU provided a venue for didactic training provided for adult Scout leaders. There were three undergraduate WVU service interns who were involved with MBU @ WVU, Mimi Flatley, Sarah Lipinski, and Savanna Sparks, along with graduate student, Nicole Pellegrino. They provided support for the event and learned about serving and teaching youth, and mobilizing volunteers. Significant support for MBU was provided by the WVU Rec Center, particularly Ben Orendorff, as well as the Mountaineer Area Council professional staff, including Scout Executive Jeff Doty and others, along with volunteer adult Scout leader guides. 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 2019.

Respectfully submitted,

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