



BSA TROOP 197 – FELLOWSHIP UMC
MERIT BADGE UNIVERSITY 2012
Saturday, February 04, 2012
FELLOWSHIP UNITED METODIST CHURCH, MURFREESBORO, TN

Participation in MBU is open to any registered Boy Scout, even if the troop is not in the Trail of Tears District. Classes are limited in size according to the subject being covered and the facilities available. These limits are imposed to insure quality instruction. Scouts who register early usually get into the merit badge classes they want; most conflicts occur with last minute registrations.

Most merit badges offered at MBU require 4 hours of class time, making it possible for the typical scout to work on two merit badges during the day – one during the morning and another during the afternoon. The day will run from 7:30 AM until 5:30 PM. Lunch is served on-site and the cost is included in the registration fee.

For the safety and security of participants, scouts are not permitted to leave campus except for class-related field trips in the company of their counselor and at least one other adult. All counselors, volunteers and scouts must wear their provided MBU ID at all times. (All activities are conducted in accordance with BSA Youth Protection Guidelines.)

Completion of merit badges is NOT GUARANTEED. Many merit badges require some degree of advance preparation and paperwork by the scouts (as will be clearly indicated on the Course List included in the Registration Packet to be published on our web site by mid-January). Boys who come unprepared may not complete the badge, but will receive credit for requirements completed at MBU.

It is our intent to create an environment where scouts have an opportunity to continue their advancement program during the winter months and earn merit badges that may not be readily available elsewhere. It is not our intention to create a so-called "merit badge factory" that cranks out merit badges with minimal work required from the scouts. Scouts who come with that expectation will be disappointed at the end of the day. Merit badge courses are planned and presented by an outstanding staff of qualified adult counselors who are both able and willing to share their knowledge with interested, motivated scouts.

We are always actively looking for additional counselors. This program has been successful because of the willingness of scout leaders and parents from dozens of troops to participate. MBU 2012 will be the 5th year for this program. Both Scout attendance and the number of merit badge offerings have increased every year --- MBU 2011 had **over 60 Scouts from our troop and others** in attendance. We expect the program to continue to expand in 2012 with the help of additional adult volunteers.

HOW DO UNITS & SCOUTS GET SIGNED UP?

STEP 1. Reserve the date **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4th, 2012** on your troop's activity calendar.

STEP 2. Beginning immediately, adults who are willing to serve as a merit badge counselor need to fill out the **Volunteer Form** using the special hyperlink at the bottom of the MBU page on our web site at MBU.BSATROOP197.COM. The program doesn't work without counselors, so we need to hear from you (ASAP) in order to create the list of courses we'll be able to offer.

STEP 3. A complete Registration Packet that will include the course list, registration forms, and everything else leaders need to know about the program to get scouts registered will be posted to MBU.BSATROOP197.COM by the end of November.