

2019 Washington DC Area Merit Badge University Event Guide

8th Annual Merit Badge University

Hosted by the Zeta Mu Chapter, Alpha Phi Omega Natl. Service Fraternity

On the Campus of The Catholic University of America

with the cooperation of the Washington DC District, NCAC

April 13 & 14, 2019 | 6:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. both days

Introduction & Contact Information

Thank you for your interest in the **8th Annual Washington DC District Merit Badge University** hosted by the Zeta Mu chapter of the [Alpha Phi Omega National Service Fraternity](#) at [The Catholic University of America](#).

The chapter is proud to host and continue this event as part of the Alpha Phi Omega's commitment to provide service to Scouting and the youth of all nations.

This event is a service project hosted and administered by the Zeta Mu chapter, Alpha Phi Omega chapter at The Catholic University of America with oversight and close coordination with the local BSA District. The Scouts BSA advancement program is administered under the requirements in the [2019 BSA Guide to Advancement](#) sections 7.0.3.2, 7.4.0.9, and 7.4.0.10.

For general, event, or registration questions, please contact:

- Samantha Calias, Merit Badge Chair for Zeta Mu Chapter of Alpha Phi Omega
dcareameritbadge@gmail.com
- Bill Pzedpelski, Washington DC District Merit Badge University Lead
bill.pzedpelski@gmail.com

Please send Scouts BSA advancement related questions to:

- Bill Pzedpelski, Washington DC District Merit Badge University Lead
bill.pzedpelski@gmail.com
- Deborah Johnson, Washington DC District Merit Badge Coordinator
meritbadgedean@scoutingindc.org
- David Astle, Merit Badge Chair, National Capital Area Council
dave.sonia@verizon.net
- Ralph Wooden, District Commissioner, Washington, DC District, National Capital Area Council
commissioner@scoutingindc.org

In case of emergency during the event, please contact:

Department of Public Safety, The Catholic University of America - (202) 319-5111
or dial 911

To report abuse in the Scouting program, contact 1-844-SCOUTS1 (1-844-726-8871) directly.

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About Alpha Phi Omega

Alpha Phi Omega is a national coeducational service organization founded on the principles of Leadership, Friendship and Service. It provides its members the opportunity to develop leadership skills as they volunteer on their campus, in their community, to the nation, and to the organization. With more than 400,000 members on over 375 campuses, Alpha Phi Omega continues to provide more service on more campuses than any other collegiate service organization.

We are an inclusive group, open to all nationalities, backgrounds and genders, and we welcome all college students to become part of our amazing organization so that together we can pursue a common goal - leading through service to others. Membership shall be conferred upon enrolled students of an institution of higher education at which a chapter of Alpha Phi Omega is located who are selected by that chapter to participate.

Alpha Phi Omega was founded by former Scouts using the Scout Motto, Scout Oath, and Scout Law as a foundation for the fraternity. Alpha Phi Omega has a longstanding relationship with Scouts BSA. Chapters all over the nation provide service to the BSA.

“As scouting is worldwide, so should Alpha Phi Omega be worldwide, gradually in the colleges and universities of all the nations. Alpha Phi Omega can help bring about, through the future statesmen of the world, that standard of manhood and international understanding and friendship that will lead to a better, more peaceful world in which to live and in which to make a living and a life.”

- Frank Reed Horton

For more information about the fraternity, please visit www.apo.org or reach out to a chapter at your local college campus.

Code of Conduct

All Scouts, Unit Leaders, Parents, Volunteers, Staff, and other participants are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with Scout Oath, Scout Law, & Outdoor Code at all times.

- **The Scout Oath:** On my honor, I will do my best. To do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; To help other people at all times; To keep myself physically strong, mentally awake and morally straight.
- **The Scout Law:** A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.
- **The Outdoor Code:** Be clean in my outdoor manners. Be careful with fire. Be considerate in the outdoors. Be conservation minded.

Scouts and participants are expected to leave the facilities better than they found them.

Staff will be trained in the Scouts BSA Youth Protection Training program and those regulations must be followed at all times.

Participants engaging in disruptive or unsafe behavior may be removed from Merit Badge Sessions and may be removed from the event at the sole discretion of counselors and the event staff.

Registration & Event Schedule

Registrations for the 2019 Washington DC Area Merit Badge University will be handled exclusively online via Eventbrite service. Space at this event is limited. Session registration slots are capped at a maximum of 15 Scouts and awarded on a first-come-first-served basis. Some sessions have fewer slots. There will be a limited wait list administered through Eventbrite.

Check in for sessions on Saturday & Sunday will take place at the **CALDWELL HALL AUDITORIUM** located on the south side of CUA campus Harewood Rd. NE. All Scouts must check in to confirm their attendance and receive their room location. The registration fee for this year is a flat fee per badge, payable either online or at in-person at the event check in. Parking will be available in the McMahon Parking lot. Parking details will be sent in advance of the event

IMPORTANT: This year, we anticipate that we will not be able to accommodate same-day sign ups registration or same-day changes for Scouts to registrations. Please communicate any cancellations in advance to dcareameritbadge@gmail.com so that we may accommodate scouts on our wait list.

The main “office” for this event is the **CALDWELL HALL AUDITORIUM**. For any questions or directions, please visit this location.

We anticipate a lot of Scouters each morning for registration, so please arrive as early and as prepared as possible. Showing up to morning check in 15 minutes prior to your session or less will likely result in a late arrival to your session. Those with afternoon sessions are encouraged to check in during the lunch break. Thank you in advance for your patience.

- 6:00 a.m. - Registration opens
- 8:00 a.m.- All-day sessions begin
- 8:00 a.m. - Half-day morning sessions begin
- 12:00 noon - Half-day morning sessions conclude

- 12:00 noon - Lunch break (1 hour)
- 1:00 p.m. - Half-day afternoon sessions begin
- 5:00 p.m. - All day sessions conclude
- 5:00 p.m. - Half-day afternoon sessions conclude

As a courtesy to our event staff and volunteers, please plan ahead to provide transportation for your Scouts immediately at the conclusion of their final session.

Packing List

Scouts are asked to bring the following items with them to the Merit Badge University:

- A bag lunch - food options on and around campus are limited
- Paper and pens for note taking
- Prerequisite Merit Badge work
- One Application for Merit Badge (“BLUE CARD”) for each badge, filled out in blue or black ink (not pencil) with the Scout’s name, Scout’s address, and Unit Leader’s signature.
- Properly layered clothing - for indoor and outdoor activities (rain or shine)
- All Scouts should wear a full Scout uniform throughout the day
- Fee for individual Merit Badge sessions (if not paid online ahead of time)

Local Food Options

We strongly recommend that Scouts bring their own lunch to the event. As an alternative, there are limited food options south of campus in the Monroe Street Market available during the event, they are as follows:

Chipotle Mexican Grill

625 Monroe St NE, Ste A8 Washington, DC 20017

<https://chipotle.com/>

Potbelly Sandwich Shop

655 Michigan Avenue NE, Suite B-4, Washington, DC 20017

<https://www.potbelly.com/stores/23185>

&pizza

666 Monroe St NE, Washington DC 20017

<http://www.andpizza.com/>

BGR – Burgers Grilled Right

655 Michigan Ave NE Washington, DC 20017

<https://www.bgrtheburgerjoint.com/locations-menus/monroe-st-market-dc/>

All Scouts are responsible for disposing of their own trash responsibly and returning to their sessions on time after lunch.

7 Steps to Ensure a Successful MBU Experience

Please review this guide before you arrive on campus for the event, there are a few steps every scout should take to make sure that you get the most out of this opportunity:

1) Meet with your Unit Leader and acquire a signed **BLUE CARD**

Before starting any Merit Badges, scouts are required to meet with their Unit Leader to have a conversation and receive a **BLUE CARD**. Fill out the sections below highlighted in red text with their information and make sure to bring it with them you to Merit Badge University:

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Information for Applicant

- A merit badge application can be approved only by a registered merit badge counselor.
- You must have a buddy with you (Scout buddy system) at each meeting with the merit badge counselor.
- Turn in your approved application to your unit leader. You will be awarded the merit badge emblem and certificate at a suitable occasion.

Information for Counselor

- Merit badge applications must be signed in advance by the applicant's unit leader.
- The Scout must have his buddy (Scout buddy system) in attendance at all instructional sessions.
- You may not change any requirement, but you may share your knowledge or experience that will make the counseling more interesting and valuable.

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APPLICATION FOR MERIT BADGE

Name Scouts Name and
Address Address Here
City _____
is registered Boy Scout Varsity Scout Venturer
of Troop 31
Troop, team, crew, ship
District Trexler
Council Minsi Trails
and is qualified to begin working for merit badge noted on the reverse side.
Adult Leader will sign here.
Date _____ Signature of unit leader _____

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
34124A
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APPLICANT'S RECORD

Name Scouts Name
has given me his completed application for the
Name of Merit Badge
Merit badge
Completed on ____/____/____ by _____
Signature of counselor _____
Adult Leader signs here
Signature of unit leader _____

COUNSELOR'S RECORD

Applicant Scouts Name
 Troop
 Team Unit number 31
 Crew
Name of Merit Badge
Merit badge
Date completed ____/____/____
Remarks: _____

NOTE TO BOY SCOUT, VARSITY SCOUT, OR VENTURER: Retain this copy for your permanent record.

It is suggested that the counselor keep this record for at least 1 year in case any question

Counselor Fills out this section.

The applicant has personally appeared before me and demonstrated to my satisfaction that he has met all requirements for the (please print)
Name of Merit Badge
Merit badge
Counselor
Fills out this section.
City _____ Zip code _____
Telephone number of counselor _____
Signature of counselor _____ Date _____
Checked and recorded: _____
Date _____ Initials _____
Certificate and badge presented _____ Date _____
Applicant will turn in this portion to his unit leader for record posting.

This **BLUE CARD** is a very important document, it is your official record of your Merit Badge work. Do your best to keep track of it. It may be very difficult to replace if lost. Ensure that your name and address are filled in in blue or black ink (not pencil).

2) Review the current requirements for the Merit Badge

It's important for scouts, personally, to know the steps you need to take to complete your Merit Badge. The most current requirements are available on the Official BSA website, here:

<https://www.scouting.org/programs/boy-scouts/advancement-and-awards/merit-badges/>

(SCROLL DOWN ON THE WEBSITE TO FIND YOUR BADGE)

Navigate to your badge(s) and review the current requirements. Merit Badge pamphlets are also available at your local Scout Shop, and possibly through your Troop's librarian. Pamphlets are excellent resources to help you prepare, however, their requirements may sometimes not match current requirements on the BSA website. **The BSA website above is the only authoritative website with the current merit badge requirements, accept no substitutes.**

3) Start working on requirements and prepared materials for Merit Badge University

It is strongly encouraged that you to come prepared to show as many requirements finished and ready for sign off as possible. Over and above the prerequisites included in this guide.

Prepare to take pictures, printouts, models, and other evidence of your work with you to Merit Badge University. Counselors will not assume that you've finished your badge prerequisites or other requirements without seeing evidence that the work has been completed.

While researching, you may find many great resources to help you work on your Merit Badges, including unofficial "worksheets" for Merit Badges. Please know that while "worksheets" may be helpful learning aids for you personally, worksheets alone do not suffice for requirements that require you to discuss, tell, show, or demonstrate things. No Scouts will be required to use "worksheets" to complete Merit Badges.

4) Meet with your counselor and get your individual requirements signed off

Your Merit Badge counselor will work with you during your session to complete requirements. It's important to know that they will only sign off requirements that you, personally, have completed before or during the session. Your counselor will sign off the requirements that you personally have completed as you complete requirements, or at the end of the session, on your **BLUE CARD** and return it.

Attendance at your session does not guarantee that you will complete a Merit Badge. ***You alone are responsible for completing the requirements as written for your Merit Badges.***

If you complete your Merit Badge during the session, then congratulations! Your counselor will detach the "Counselor Record" segment from the **BLUE CARD**, write their contact information on the card, and then give you the remaining 2/3rds of the card. As soon as possible, take your completed **BLUE CARD** back to your Unit Leader to ensure that you receive credit for your work.

If you didn't complete your Merit Badge during the session, that is perfectly OK. You have still made progress towards earning your badge! **Make sure to get your counselor's contact information before leaving Merit Badge University so that you can follow up with them.**

Make sure to take your **BLUE CARD** back with you at the end of the session and keep it in a safe place. This is your record of your progress to completing your Merit Badge. It may be very difficult to replace if lost.

You don't have to start your badge over again, because any requirements you have recorded on your **BLUE CARD** are considered to be complete and valid until your 18th birthday.

5) If you need to do additional work to finish your Merit Badge, commit to following up with your counselor

No matter how many requirements you have left, it's recommended that you continue your work on your Merit Badges shortly after your session at Merit Badge University and keep in touch with your counselor to wrap up the rest of your requirements. At a time of mutual convenience, you may arrange to meet with your counselor and a buddy (or parent) to finish requirements in person. **Make sure to get your counselor's contact information before leaving Merit Badge University so that you can follow up with them.**

If meeting with your session's counselor after the event is inconvenient, you may choose to continue and complete your Merit Badges with a different counselor for the same badge (so long as they are registered Merit Badge Counselors). This includes counselors in your own Unit, at summer camp, and counselors closer to you geographically. Make sure you keep your **BLUE CARD** so that the new counselor can continue your progress. **Speak with your Scoutmaster to locate another counselor.**

6) Return completed **BLUE CARDS** to your Scoutmaster immediately

Once you have completed your Merit Badge. The counselor who completed the badge with you will detach the "Counselor Record" segment from the **BLUE CARD**, write their contact information on the card, and then hand you back the remaining 2/3rds of the card. Take your completed **BLUE CARD** back to your Unit Leader as soon as possible to ensure that you receive credit for your work.

7) If you have any questions, ask for help as soon as possible

If you have any questions about this document, suspect unfair treatment at the event, or suspect that BSA procedures have not been followed during or after this event, then please contact the following individuals:

For general, event, or registration questions, please contact:

- Samantha Calias, Merit Badge Chair for Zeta Mu Chapter of Alpha Phi Omega
dcareameritbadge@gmail.com
- Bill Pzedpelski, Washington DC District Merit Badge University Lead
bill.pzedpelski@gmail.com

Please send Scouts BSA advancement related questions to:

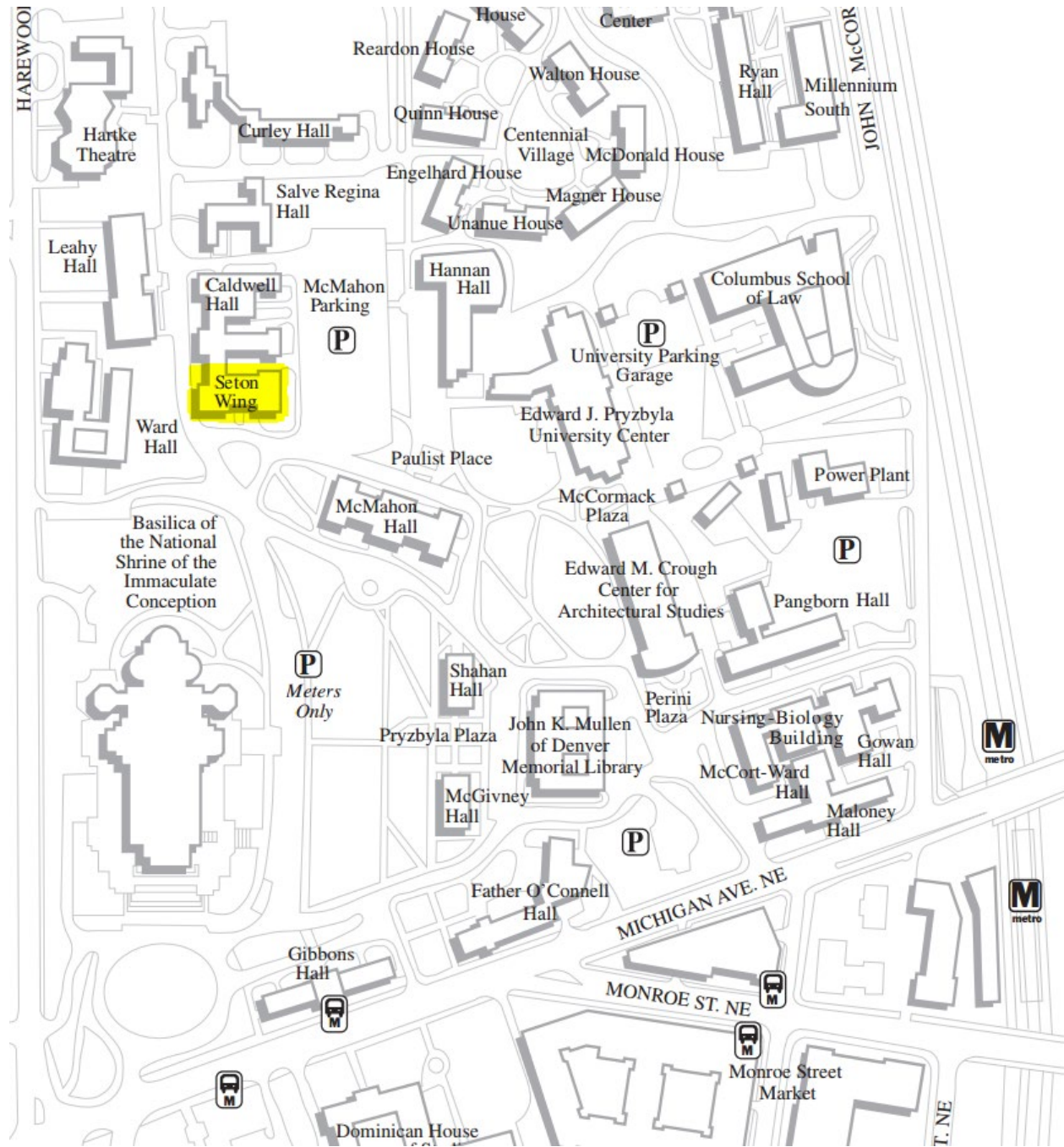
- Bill Pzedpelski, Washington DC District Merit Badge University Lead
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Appendix 1 - Campus Map

Direct PDF link: <https://www.cua.edu/res/docs/cuamap.pdf>



Appendix 2 - Merit Badge Prerequisites

Prerequisites submitted by individual counselors will be listed here as they are confirmed.

In the meantime, it's strongly recommended that all Scouts review their badge requirements and come prepared with evidence of completion.

<https://www.scouting.org/programs/boy-scouts/advancement-and-awards/merit-badges/>

(SCROLL DOWN ON THE WEBSITE TO FIND YOUR BADGE)