



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
THREE FIRES COUNCIL



For Immediate Release
February 7, 2019

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Media Advisory – Merit Badge University 2019

MBU Goes Co-Ed!

ST. CHARLES, IL – For over 20 years, Three Fires Council has been helping Scouts soar to Eagle by hosting a concentrated, annual event focused advancement. This year, Merit Badge University is welcoming young women to participate in one of the largest single-day learning events in all of Scouting. As of February 1, 2019, both boys and girls alike can work towards the rank of Eagle Scout through the newly expanded Scouts BSA program. While young women have long been welcomed to other Boy Scouts of America programs such as Venturing, Exploring, Sea Scouts and STEM Scout programs, this is the first time they will be able to work directly on merit badges and other traditional Scout ranks.

“We’re excited to offer new opportunities through BSA programs to even more of our area’s youth,” said Clint Scharff, Scout Executive/CEO for Three Fires Council. “Merit Badge University gives these young people access to merit badge counselors who are experts in their fields.”

The event is expected to attract over 1,500 Scouts from as far away as Phoenix, Arizona and Louisville, Kentucky to Scouts from more regional councils in Illinois, Wisconsin, Iowa, Indiana, and Michigan. Over 100 instructors will offer over 90 classes in outdoor skills, science technology engineering and math (STEM), sports, vocational and professional career interests.

Many of the merit badges offered are required for the rank of Eagle, including Citizenship in the Community, Nation, and World as well as Emergency Preparedness, First Aid, and Personal Fitness. Other offerings include everything from American Business to Veterinary Medicine—and everything in between.

The program begins at 8 a.m. at York Community High School in Elmhurst, Illinois and continues until 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 9.

About Three Fires Council

Three Fires Council is headquartered in St. Charles, Illinois, and was formed in 1925. It serves more than 14,500 youth throughout Kane, DuPage, Kendall, DeKalb, and parts of Will and Cook Counties. Local communities are divided into 10 volunteer-led districts. Approximately 6,000 adult volunteers serve local youth. Last year, more than 142,000 community service hours were accumulated in Eagle Scout projects and other service opportunities. Three Fires Council also boasts two camps: Camp Big Timber (Elgin, Illinois) and Camp Freeland Leslie (Oxford, Wisconsin).

Website: www.threefirescouncil.org

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