



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®

THREE FIRES COUNCIL



For Immediate Release
Feb. 13, 2020

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Media Advisory – Merit Badge Event Breaks Last Year’s Attendance Record

1,600 Scouts to attend

ST. CHARLES, IL –

Merit Badge University is a one-day, annual event where Scouts from around the country can gather to work on advancement in everything from Archaeology and Aviation to Veterinary Medicine and Weather. Young people will work on important skills and potentially discover their future career. For almost a quarter century, Three Fires Council has been hosting the gathering, which has grown exponentially over the years.

“When we began 23 years ago, fewer than 100 Scouts took part,” said Clint Scharff, Scout Executive/CEO for Three Fires Council. “Merit Badge University 2020 is expected to draw well over 1,600 Scouts from Northern Illinois and several other surrounding states.”

Overall, 24 Councils from 11 states will be participating. Scouts will be traveling from all points of the compass, from St. Paul, Minnesota to St. Louis, Missouri, and Phoenix, Arizona to Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

Over 100 instructors will offer more than 90 classes in outdoor skills, science technology engineering and math (STEM), sports, vocational and professional career interests. Most will offer hands-on demonstrations in everything from outdoor cooking to fly-fishing. 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, Family Life, and Personal Fitness.

The program begins on Saturday, February 15 at 8:00 a.m. at York Community High School in Elmhurst, Illinois and continues until 4:30 p.m.

About Three Fires Council

Three Fires Council is headquartered in St. Charles, Illinois, and was formed in 1925. It serves more than 13,000 youth throughout Kane, DuPage, Kendall, DeKalb, and parts of Will and Cook Counties. Local communities are divided into three 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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