



Eagle Valley District Merit Badge University



Hosted By
Pennsylvania Western University,
California Campus
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2026 Counselor Guide

**2026 Eagle Valley Merit Badge University
PennWest University, California Campus**



Knowledge and Fellowship

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Hello MBU Counselor,

I wanted to take a minute and thank you for your willingness to share your knowledge with our Scouts. This event would not have lasted over 25 years without the dedicated volunteers like you. We put together this guide to better explain our policies and procedures and to help you better prepare for your class. If you have been with us in the past, you will notice some changes for this year's event. Last year included some major changes for us. Most notably, moving our administrative center to the Natali Student Center. We are taking the lessons learned from last year to improve for 2026. Please look this guide over and let me know if you have any questions.

Again, I want to thank all of you for your hard work and dedication to our event.

Mike

Event Timeline

Late July 2025	Email sent out to last year's participants with a list of secured classes for 2026.
August 2025	Email sent to last year's counselors.
September 2025	Search for new counselors and badges ramps up with notices going out to Districts.
October 2025	Roundtable appeals begin. Also, the first save the date Facebook ad runs.
October 2025	Zoom meeting with counselors and staff.
November 2025	Final push for counselors and firm up classroom assignments.
December 2025	Need list of prerequisites from counselors and final class list goes to Plaza for Black Pug set up.
December 2025	Zoom meeting with counselors and staff
January 2026	Registration goes live by January 6.
January 2026	Weekly reports sent to counselors
March 7, 2026	27th MBU event runs

2026 Event Schedule

7:15 AM	Registration Opens in Natali Student Union 3rd Floor
8:15 AM	Opening in Natali Student Union Performance Center
8:45 AM	Dismissal to Class
9:00 AM	Morning and All Day Classes Start
12:00 PM	Morning Session Ends
12:15 PM	Lunch in Natali Student Union
1:00 PM	Afternoon Classes Start
4:00 PM	Classes End
4:30 PM	Closing Ceremony in Natali Student Union
4:45 PM	Dismissal from Natali Student Union

Changes for 2026

1. The major change you will see is the addition of some adult education classes to the event. We are serving as an incubator for 2026 and 2027 for a renewed Council University of Scouting. These two years will test the interest in holding a full-scale event while providing the opportunity for parents and adult leaders to learn more about our Cub, Venturing, Sea Scout, and Scouting BSA program. Although we will share space in Natali for registration, openings, and closings, these classes will be in a separate classroom building on campus.
2. First aid personnel will be in both Duda and Eberly classroom buildings during the event.
3. We will be asking you to join us in Natali for our opening where we will introduce you to your scouts. You can then take them to the appropriate classroom.
4. Bring a complete BSA medical form to the event, Parts A and B. This will be returned to you after the event.
5. We are still looking for someone to head a Cub Scout section for our event. Each den would have 2 or 3 electives to complete on a much-shortened day.
6. Parent or legal guardians must provide identification before picking up their Scout. If someone other than the parent or legal guardians is involved, the usual pick-up consent form will be used.
7. Please submit a short bio for use in our “Meet the Instructors” section of the Event Guide. No more than 5 or 6 lines.

Basic Operations

Here are the basic operational rules which govern our event.

1. ALL counselors MUST have the following:

- ❖ **Be a current registered Merit Badge Counselor. The cost is \$25 in not already registered in the program.**
- ❖ **Take the new BSA Safeguarding Youth Protection Program.**
- ❖ **Provide your current Pennsylvania State Clearances.**
- ❖ **Links to all required paperwork can be found on the last page.**

2. No required badges will be taught.

3. Class size is limited to 15 per class unless the counselor requests a smaller class.

4. Scouts MUST be provided with a list of prerequisites if needed for the badge.

5. Class sessions are 3 hours each. You need to determine if there is a separate morning and afternoon class, or a single all-day class.

6. Provide contact information for Scouts and be available to finish all partials.

7. Provide a current BSA medical to be returned after the event, sections A and B.

8. Parking is available behind Natali and in the lot between Eberly and Duda classroom buildings.

9. Please make sure you fill the allotted time for your class. You may need to add additional videos or information from the internet about the badge. There are also many PowerPoint presentations available online to aid you in this. Or you may choose to add a partner badge to your offering. For example, we offer Fingerprinting and Crime Prevention together in one 3-hour session.

10. A box lunch will be provided for you.

11. Please do not dismiss you Scouts from your class before the end of the class period. We cannot have them wander around campus unsupervised.

12. Please fill out all the class paperwork. This is our record of those attending and we also use it to enter the information into Scoutbook.

13. A map of campus will be provided for you.

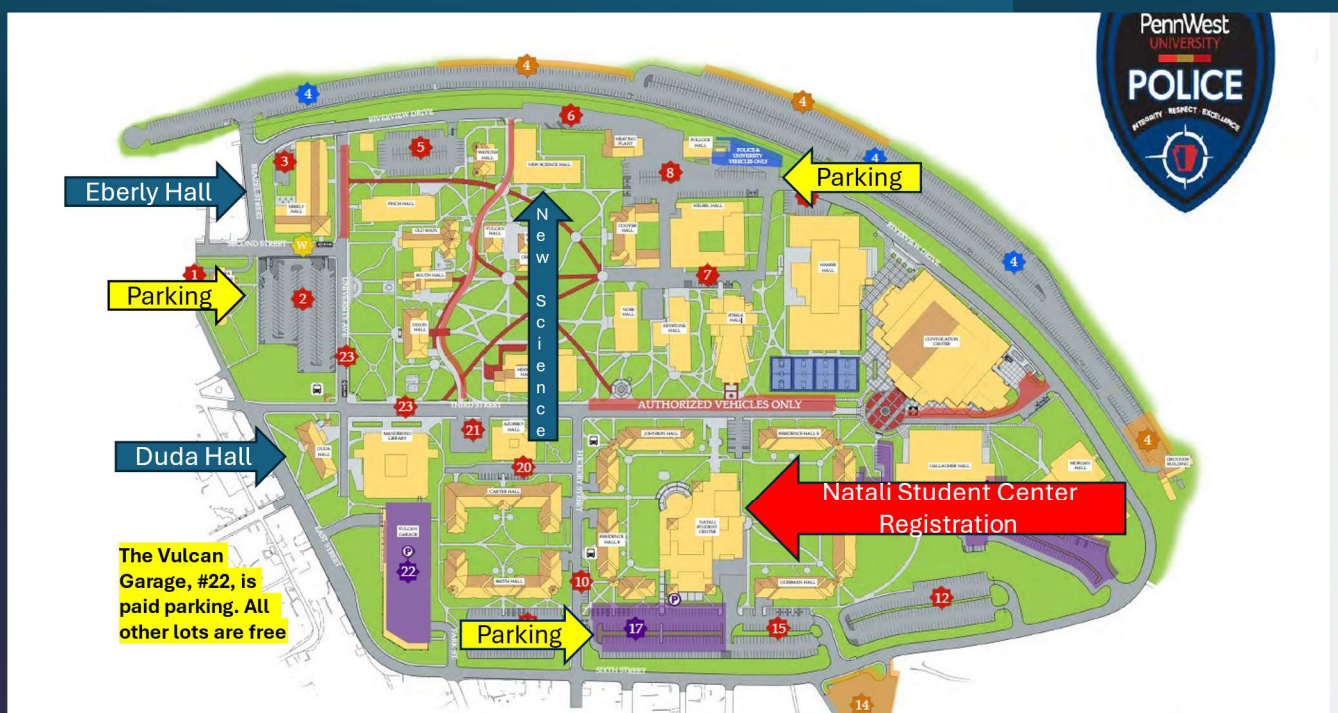
14. Classrooms should be open at 7 am.

15. The buildings will be closed at 5 pm.

16. Please check for the most recent requirements for your badge.

Links You Need

- ❖ [BSA Adult Registration Application. Use code 42 for Merit Badge Counselor](#)
- ❖ [Laurel Highlands Council Merit Badge Counselor Application](#)
- ❖ [BSA Youth Protection and Pa Mandated Clearances](#)
- ❖ [Non-PA Resident Clearance Form](#)



GETTING HERE

FROM THE EAST (Harrisburg, Philadelphia)

PA Turnpike to New Stanton, Exit 75. Interstate 70 West to Exit 37A (Toll Road 43).

From the NorthEast (Scranton)

Interstate 81 South to PA Turnpike. PA Turnpike West to New Stanton, Exit 75. Interstate 70 West to Exit 37A (Toll Road 43).

From the North (Erie, Pittsburgh)

Interstate 79 South to Interstate 70 Exit. Interstate 70 East to Exit 37A (Toll Road 43).

From the SouthEast (Baltimore, Washington DC)

Interstate 70 West to PA Turnpike West to New Stanton, Exit 75. Interstate 70 West to Exit 37A (Toll Road 43).

From the West, SouthWest (Ohio, West Virginia)

Interstate 70 East to Exit 37A (Toll Road 43).

From Toll Road 43

Take the California exit (bear right at end of exit). Stay straight toward Wood Street. Follow Wood Street down to intersection at Third Street. At the stop light, turn right onto Third Street and follow straight onto campus. Parking is available in the Vulcan Garage; turn right just before the campus entrance.

