

BSA-Astronomy Merit Badge Workshop

Hosted by:

Peggy Hernandez, Elgin School District U-46 Planetarium teacher and registered
BSA Merit Badge Counselor



School District U-46
Planetarium

Overview:

Scouts must be a minimum of Tenderfoot BSA rank (working towards second class) AND at least 12 years old (7th grade) to register in the fall. No exceptions.

Scouts register in the fall (Sept.1-Dec. 1) for PART 1 and participate in online activities and assignments submitted via email known as tasks 1, 2 and 3. This includes multimedia slide decks, informational videos, maintaining moon and/or sky journals, looking up planet and Moon data, and participating in live chats. A February Zoom meeting for task 3 with a tour of the current sky and Q & A completes PART 1. Participants must engage and participate in all 3 tasks in Part 1 to sign up for PART 2. Candidates will receive feedback during Part 1. All PART 1 tasks need to be completed and submitted by **Feb 17**.

Once a candidate completes PART 1, he or she will be invited to sign up for PART 2 which is a *live, in-person Saturday morning session (*tentatively scheduled for Sat 3/05/2022*) at the U-46 Planetarium and Observatory that completes the badge requirements. Part 1 must be completed to register for Part 2.

- PART 1 has no registration fee. Successful completion allows Scouts to sign up for PART 2 which has a registration fee is \$20.00 per scout. The workshop is limited to *15 participants. If part 1 is completed, part 2 can be done in any subsequent year.
- An email address and the ability to scan and attach documents using Kami or other PDF annotating app or Google sharing is required to participate.
- I will be using the scouting.com online merit badge tracking to award the badge. **I do not supply blue cards or badges.**
- The building is handicapped accessible and the program is accommodating. Please call for details or if you have any questions or concerns.
- Registration is online and separate for each session. You will receive a confirmation email. If you register and do not receive one within 3 days, please email me at peggyhernandez@u-46.org or call (847) 888-5019. If you do not receive a confirmation, you are NOT registered.
- We will spend most of PART 2 in the planetarium, but we will go upstairs to the observatory (for about a half hour) for specific telescope information and questions. There is no heat or air conditioning in the observatory dome, so dress accordingly.
- A bottle of water and a snack will be offered to each participant during a break. You may also bring your own. Please no cans or open cups for liquids. There is no refrigerator available. Eat a good breakfast!
- Due to the popularity of merit badge session, space is reserved for candidates earning their badge and parents/leaders as appropriate. One adult per 2-5 scouts is appropriate. Please no siblings.
- The U-46 planetarium offers *scout sessions for younger scouts that are highly recommended as a troop/den activity before your merit badge attempt, as well as occasional family friendly public shows. [Dates and info available on the U-46 website.](#)
- **Free parking** is available at the corner of Raymond St. and National St, one block away. Drop-offs can be done in front of the building, but there is no parking on Watch St.
- Registration links are available on the [Observatory/Planetarium section of the U-46 website.](#)

U-46 Planetarium and ENWC Observatory:
312 Watch St.
Elgin, IL 60120

*** All dates and in-person events are subject to change pending IDPH and ISBE directives**
All of part 1 is done online.