

Merit Badge Campout FAQs

Are Troops required to camp overnight to complete the Aviation Merit Badge?

No, camping overnight is not a requirement for completion of the Aviation Merit Badge. The only requirement is for Scouts to complete all 8 classes on Saturday. Troops may camp Friday and/or Saturday night, or just arrive for Saturday-only class participation.

What will the Merit Badge classes be like on Saturday?

There will be (8) 40-minute classes administered on Saturday to meet all requirements for Merit Badge completion. Troops will be organized into 8 groups that will rotate together through the 8 stations. There will be 4 classes in the morning, a break for lunch, and then 4 classes in the afternoon. Many of the classes will be held in the hangar.

For those Troops participating Saturday-only (not camping), what time should they plan to arrive/depart?

Troops arriving on Saturday should plan to arrive no later than 8am for check-in and preparations for the morning events. Those troops departing on Saturday evening but wanting to receive their completed Blue Cards before they leave should plan on staying as late as 6pm. I will give priority to Saturday-departing Troops to distribute their blue cards first.

Where will we be camping for the weekend?

Troops will camp on the grass area adjacent to MAPS Air Museum. This is tent camping only – no power or utility hook ups. Vehicles will park on the asphalt parking lot area directly adjacent to the camping area.

Are we allowed to haul trailers into the campsite area? Where do we park vehicles?

Yes, you may position and drop your trailer near your camping spot on the grassy area for the weekend. Do not park any vehicles or trailers on the gravel area near the fenced radar tower area. All overnight cars and trucks should be parked on the asphalt parking area (near the planes) inside the security gate after unloading.

Are Troops able to freely enter and leave the MAPS facility during the night?

No. Due to FAA Security regulations, we are required to keep the MAPS gate locked at night. We typically lock the gate area at 11:00pm and re-open at 6:30am. We will have MAPS personnel staying overnight both nights who will be available to open the gate for late night arrivals or departures. If Troops know in advance that they will have after-hour needs to have the gate opened, please communicate to Jim Felner (felner.james@mapsairmuseum.org) so that we can be prepared to do so.

Is there water available on-site?

Yes, there will be a hose available for water for cooking and cleaning. There are water fountains located within the Museum Hangar area. Troops are highly encouraged to bring their own drinking water.

Are there restroom facilities on-site?

There will be portolets located in the camping area.

There are restrooms located inside the Museum Hangar area, which will be open all night.

Are we allowed to build campfires on site?

There will be a very limited number of fire rings and firewood available for campfires. Fires can only be built in the designated firepit areas. Due to our immediate proximity to the Akron Canton Airport, the number of campfires is strictly limited. For cooking purposes, Troops will need to provide gas stoves for hot food preparation. Troops are encouraged to bring their own starter kindling if they plan to have a fire.

What happens if we experience bad weather during the campout?

For the classroom training, MAPS will move outdoor classes inside the hangar area for inclement weather. For overnight camping under normal or light rain showers, Troops camping should expect to remain outdoors. If potential severe weather conditions develop, MAPS personnel will decide whether to open the hangar floor areas for indoor overnight sleeping.

Is there food provided by MAPS?

No, Troops should plan to bring all their own food and snacks for the weekend.

Are Scouts required to wear uniforms during the weekend?

No, Troops are welcome to but not required to wear uniforms during the weekend.

When are Blue Cards turned in? When do Scouts receive them back?

Blue Cards must be turned in no later than Saturday morning before the first class (~ 9am). Signed Blue Cards will be returned to each Troop on Saturday evening. For those Troops not camping Saturday night, every effort will be made to return Blue Cards to them by 6pm Saturday evening.

Behavioral Expectations – *MAPS is first and foremost a museum, displaying airplanes, precious memorabilia and historical artifacts from aviation history. The museum contents represent the actions and sacrifices of the many veterans who risked their lives in service of their country. The Merit Badge weekend is an extremely unique opportunity for Scouts to learn about Aviation history in a campout environment. While we want this weekend to be enjoyable for all attendees, we fully expect Adult leaders and older Scouts to enforce and supervise “museum appropriate” behavior with the younger Scouts during the weekend. Horseplay, unsupervised wandering, and tampering with Museum displays will not be tolerated.*

Feel free to contact Jim Felner (felner.james@mapsairmuseum.org) with additional questions.