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How to get the chess merit badge counselor

Who should take this training? New Scouts BSA Merit Badge Counselors Why should I take this training? A well-qualified Merit Badge Counselor can enhance a youth’s attention span through effective communication, which leads to better understanding of the subject, productive discussions, and true interest. A bond of mutual respect often develops when a Scout feels confident to offer thoughts and opinions through meaningful conversations with a merit badge counselor. Thus, a Scout grows in social skills and self-reliance as a result of interacting with an adult who is a qualified counselor. The merit badge counselor agrees to follow the requirements of the recognition, making no deletions or additions, ensuring the advancement standards are fair and uniform for all Scouts. Merit Badge Counselor Training is available online at My.Scouting.org. When is this training available? The online version of Merit Badge Counselor Training is available anytime through the Training section of My.Scouting.org. The in-person classroom version of Merit Badge Counselor Training is generally offered a few times a year, typically in conjunction with individual districts’ training days. Where is this training offered? You can take the online version of Merit Badge Counselor Training by logging in to My.Scouting.org (if you’ve never visited this site before, you’ll need to click the “create account” button and then follow the instructions; have your BSA membership ID number handy). The in-person classroom version of Merit Badge Counselor Training will require you to go to a physical location within your district, or there may be a course offered at the Frank Fickett Scout Training and Service Center (12500 North IH 35, Austin, 78753). What is the cost of this training? There is no cost if you take Merit Badge Counselor Training online through My.Scouting.org. If you take the in-person classroom version, there may be a small fee to cover the cost of handouts or other class materials. How do I sign up for this training? You don’t have to register to take the online version of Merit Badge Counselor Training through My.Scouting.org; just log in and start taking the class modules. Dates for the next available in-person course have not yet been announced. The Saint Louis Chess Club first introduced the Chess Merit Badge in 2011. Since then, it has become one of the most popular badges in the Scouts BSA merit badge catalog, with over 250,000 scouts earning their Chess Merit badge. The STLCC designed workshops provide a dynamic program of learning and adventure that builds critical thinking, forward thinking, and proper sportsmanship in young people. Free Virtual Learning For scouts ages 11 - 17 Must have basic knowledge of chess rules Must have access to computer with microphone. Camera optional UPCOMING WORKSHOPS March 14 - 25, 2022 Monday - Friday, 7 - 8 PM Registration Closed For This Workshop April 18 - 29, 2022 Monday - Friday, 7 - 8 PM May 16 - 27, 2022 Monday - Friday, 7 - 8 PM June 13 - 24, 2022 Monday - Friday, 7 - 8 PM Chess Merit Badge Requirements: Discuss with your merit badge counselor the history of chess. Explain why it is considered a game of planning and strategy. Discuss with your counselor the following: The benefits of chess, including developing critical thinking skills, concentration skills, and decision-making skills. Sportsmanship and chess etiquette. Demonstrate to your counselor that you know each of the following: The name of each chess piece. How to set up a chess board. How each chess piece moves, including castling and en passant. Do the following: Demonstrate score keeping using algebraic chess notation. Discuss the differences between the opening, middle game, and endgame. Explain four opening principles. Explain the rules for castling. Demonstrate a "scholar's mate" and "fool's mate." Demonstrate four ways a chess game can end in a draw Do the following: Explain four of the following elements of chess strategy: exploiting weaknesses, force, king safety, pawn structure, space, tempo, time. Explain any five of these chess tactics: clearance sacrifice, decoy, discovered attack, double attack, fork, interposing, overloading, overprotecting, pin, remove the defender, skewer, zwischenzug. Set up a chessboard with the white king on e1, the white rooks on a1 and h1, and the black king on e5. With White to move first, demonstrate how to force checkmate on the black king. Set up and solve five direct-mate problems provided by your merit badge counselor. Do ONE of the following: Play at least three games of chess with other Scouts and/or your merit badge counselor. Replay the games from your score sheets and discuss with your counselor how you might have played each game differently. Play in a scholastic (youth) chess tournament and use your score sheets from that tournament to replay your games with your merit badge counselor. Discuss with your counselor how you might have played each game differently. Organize and run a chess tournament with at least four players, plus you. Have each competitor play at least two games. For any inquiries, please contact the Scholastics Department at: Scholastics@saintlouischessclub.org Please arrive with ample time prior to the start time of your class for registration. Remember, there will be others checking in as well that registration may take a little time, depending on the size of the class and the event held in conjunction with the class.Your Scout uniform is required to be worn when attending this merit badge session. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact Brian Reiners (Scoutmater Bucky) via email at scoutmasterbucky@yahoo.com or on the phone at 612-483-0665.Reviewing the merit badge pamphlet PRIOR to attending and doing preparation work will ensure that Scouts get the most out of these class opportunities. The merit badge pamphlet is a wealth of information that can make earning a merit badge a lot easier. It contains many of the answers and solutions needed or can at least provide direction as to where one can find the answers.It is NOT acceptable to come unprepared to a Scoutmaster Bucky event. You can (and should) use the Scoutmaster Bucky Chess Merit Badge Workbook to help get a head start and organize your preparation work. Please note that the use of any workbook is merely for note taking and reference. Completion of any merit badge workbook does not warrant, guarantee, or confirm a Scout's completion of any merit badge requirement(s). You can download the Scoutmaster Bucky Chess Merit Badge Workbook for taking notes to help you prepare.It should be noted that this Merit Badge class is not meant for those who just want to come and see what they can get done. It is possible to complete this Merit Badge by being properly prepared and having done the preparation work prior to the class. Preparation is a MUST! If you are not willing to participate to these expectations and standards, perhaps the Scoutmaster Bucky opportunity is not for you.Things to remember to bring for this merit badge class:Merit badge blue card properly filled out and signed off by your ScoutmasterChess Merit Badge PamphletScout uniformSupporting documentation or project work pertinent to the Chess merit badge, which may also include a merit badge workbook for reference with notesA positive Scouting focus and attitudePlease read and understand the Scoutmaster Bucky Blue Card Process.Please arrive with ample time prior to the start time of your class to ensure your connection to the online session is working properly. Ask people in your household to refrain from unnecessary internet usage, including but not limited to: streaming videos, online gaming, and other heavy bandwidth usage.You will receive a link 12 to 24 hours before the class start time. Notification will come through the email address provided during the registration process, so please make sure you enter your email correctly.Your Scout Uniform is required to be worn when attending this Online Merit Badge session. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact Brian Reiners; Scoutmaster Bucky via email at scoutmasterbucky@yahoo.com or on the phone at 612-483-0665.Reviewing the Merit Badge Pamphlet PRIOR to attending and doing preparation work will insure that Scouts get the most out of these online class opportunities. The Merit Badge Pamphlet is a wealth of information that can make earning a Merit Badge a lot easier. It contains many of the answers and solutions needed or can at least provide direction as to where one can find the answers.It is NOT acceptable to come unprepared to a Scoutmaster Bucky event. You can (and should) use the Scoutmaster Bucky American Business Merit Badge Workbook to help get a head start and organize your preparation work. Please note that the use of any workbook is merely for note taking and reference. Completion of any Merit Badge Workbook does not warrant, guarantee, or confirm a Scouts completion of any merit badge requirement(s). You can download the Scoutmaster Bucky Chess Merit Badge Workbook for taking notes to help you prepare.It should be noted that this Merit Badge class is not meant for those who just want to come and see what they can get done. It is possible to complete this Merit Badge by being properly prepared and having done the preparation work prior to the class. Preparation is a MUST! If you are not willing to participate to these expectations and standards, perhaps the Scoutmaster Bucky opportunity is not for you.Please make sure you read the top portion of this page for general participation expectations in a Scoutmaster Bucky merit badge class.Pay careful attention to the action verbs within the requirements. An example to note:"Tell", "explain", "describe", and "discuss" are commonly used and will require the Scout to perform these actions during the class. When these action verbs are a part of any requirement, Scouts are expected to be prepared to share. Reading responses is not acceptable since it does not fulfill the requirement of showing the Scout's knowledge and understanding.1.Discuss with your merit badge counselor the history of the game of chess. Explain why it is considered a game of planning and strategy.Scouts should consider having this written out to show the counselor that some thought and research has gone into this requirement and Scouts should be prepared to discuss their findings. Scouts will not automatically be signed off on this requirement just for attending as the requirement states that they must discuss and explain their findings.2.Discuss with your merit badge counselor the following:(a)The benefits of playing chess, including developing critical thinking skills, concentration skills, and decision-making skills, and how these skills can help you in other areas of your life(b)Sportsmanship and chess etiquetteScouts will engage in discussion on their findings during the class. Scouts should review the merit badge pamphlet book to have a better understanding of what this requirement is looking for them to understand. The counselor will facilitate discussion on this requirement during the class. It should be noted that only Scouts that actively, positively, and successfully participate in the discussion will be signed off on this requirement. Preparation is a must.3.Demonstrate to your counselor that you know each of the following. Then, using Scouting's Teaching EDGE, teach someone (preferably another Scout) who does not know how to play chess:You may learn about Scouting's Teaching EDGE from your unit leader, another Scout, or by attending training.(a)The name of each chess piece(b)How to set up a chessboard(c)How each chess piece moves, including castling and en passant capturesScouts should be familiar with and be able to identify all the chess pieces and their proper movement and starting points. The Chess Merit Badge Pamphlet as well as the Scoutmaster Bucky Chess Merit Badge Workbook are must use references for preparing for these parts of the requirement. Component 3C can easily be reviewed through the use of the Merit Badge Pamphlet and Scouts should have a basic understanding of these terms and skill. The counselor will work with Scouts based on preparedness to execute the EDGE method part of this requirement during the class.(a)Demonstrate scorekeeping using the algebraic system of chess notation.(b)Discuss the differences between the opening, the middle game, and the endgame.(c)Explain four opening principles.(d)Explain the four rules for castling.(e)On a chessboard, demonstrate a "scholar's mate" and a "fool's mate."(f)Demonstrate on a chessboard four ways a chess game can end in a draw.While this requirement will be reviewed in the class, Scouts will need to have reviewed the Chess Merit Badge Pamphlet for each of these components and at least have a basic understanding of these terms, skills, and methods as they relate to the game of Chess. It is highly recommended to utilize the Scoutmaster Bucky Chess Merit Badge Workbook to make notes when looking each of these components up and recording your findings for easy reference during the class.(a)Explain four of the following elements of chess strategy: exploiting weaknesses, force, king safety, pawn structure, space, tempo, time.(b)Explain any five of these chess tactics: clearance sacrifice, decoy, discovered attack, double attack, fork, interposing, overloading, overprotecting, pin, remove the defender, skewer, zwischenzug.For requirement components 5a and 5b, Scouts should prepare in the same way as they are recommended to prepare in Requirement 4.(c)Set up a chessboard with the white king on e1, the white rooks on a1 and h1, and the black king on e5. With White to move first, demonstrate how to force checkmate on the black king.For Requirement 5c, Scouts will be asked to set up their chess board and show the counselor their solution to the scenario. While time will be allotted during the class for this, it is recommended to make an attempt to review this component and apply some thought to a solution prior to the class. Beginner Chess players may find this requirement difficult depending on their level of understanding. This is a more advanced, beginner-level concept and practice in Chess. While every attempt will be made to assist Scouts in understanding and executing this component successfully, please note that like setting up a tent or building a campfire, there is some skill and reasoning that is involved and required to complete.(d)Set up and solve five direct-mate problems provided by your merit badge counselor.Requirement 5d, will be done in the class.6.(a)Play at least three games of chess with other Scouts and/or your merit badge counselor. Replay the games from your score sheets and discuss with your counselor how you might have played each game differently.(b)Play in a scholastic (youth) chess tournament and use your score sheets from that tournament to replay your games with your merit badge counselor. Discuss with your counselor how you might have played each game differently.(c)Organize and run a chess tournament with at least four players, plus you. Have each competitor play at least two games.Requirement 6 will be completed in the class. The counselor will either be doing Requirement 6a or 6c in the class..Requirement 6 sill NOT be completed a part of the online class, however Scouts able to rprovide proof of completion, completion to the satisfaction of the merit badge counselor / instructor, will be considered for sign off on this requirement. Be Prepared!

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