



Virtual Summer Experience (V.S.E.) Parent & Leader Guide

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BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA®
DEL-MAR-VA COUNCIL

Welcome Scouts and Scouters,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the Del-Mar-Va Family. You have made an excellent choice for your Scout's virtual summer camp experience. The Henson Summer Camp Staff, Del-Mar-Va Council Volunteers and Staff, and I take great pride in treating Scouts that spend their summers with us like family. We will go above and beyond to ensure you have a great experience!

Here at Henson Scout Reservation and in the Del-Mar-Va Council, we stay on the leading edge when it comes to new and exciting program opportunities for Scouts and Scouters. Our virtual summer program in 2020 was one of the first of its kind and our staff's dedication, experience, and expertise set the example for others. We are looking forward to continuing this opportunity for Scouts as we offer Merit Badges in a virtual format again in 2021.

It is incredible that we can use our technology to help enhance our Scouting experience. It is our goal to provide the same quality lessons and fellowship that you're used to receiving from summer camp and other in-person events with the Del-Mar-Va Council.

If there is anything I can do to assist you in preparing for VSE, please feel free to reach out to me at ryanteat@dmvc.org. I look forward to working with you and your unit to provide your Scouts with a summer experience that will leave them with great memories for the rest of their lives!

Yours in Scouting,

Ryan Teat

Southern Program Director

Camp Director- Henson Scout Reservation

P.S.- Like us on Facebook for up to date news, pictures, and announcements!

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Virtual Summer Experience (V.S.E.) Overview

It is the goal of the Del-Mar-Va Council to provide a program that contributes to the development of citizenship, character development, and personal fitness in Scouts, leaders, and staff alike.

As a result of participation in the V.S.E, Scouts will be able to advance in the Scouting program and demonstrate behaviors associated with the aims of the Scouting program.

Some examples of the desired behavior outcomes include:

Citizenship- Participants may demonstrate citizenship by wearing their uniforms or performing a service project in their communities to benefit others. Above all, we should all work to keep our communities safe by practicing social distancing and frequently washing our hands for at least 20 seconds.

Character Development- Scouts will have the opportunity to participate in a rigorous program that challenges them to act as part of a team in the accomplishment of a community goal, or as an individual in learning and demonstrating new skills. An example might be a willingness to learn in an uncertain and new environment, and to give 100% even in less than ideal circumstances.

Personal Fitness- Scouts are encouraged to participate in a physical outdoor program that promotes an active, healthy lifestyle. The US Health Department recommends at least 60 minutes of physically active playtime per day. Scouts are encouraged to stand up and walk around, do some exercises, or go for a run during the time between programs.



Cost

The cost to participate in the V.S.E will be \$20 per merit badge. Scouts can select as few as 1 and as many as 9 merit badges over the course of the three weeks.

Each Scout participating in at least 1 merit badge will receive a patch in the mail.

Key Dates

Wednesday, May 12th @ 7:30pm:

Parent/Leader Informational Meeting

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/bve-jtmx-kci>

Wednesday, June 30th: Last day to register for VSE.

- Please note, payment is due at the time of registration



Leadership Policy

The Youth Protection guidelines set by the Boy Scouts of America require that no scout can be 1-on-1 with a leader, including online. If only one Scout registers for a class, it may be canceled. All emails sent to and from instructors and youth MUST have an adult or Scoutmaster copied.

Google Meet Sessions WILL NOT be recorded per the Youth Protection Guidelines.

Technical Requirements

Each Scout Participating will need at least the following:

- Personal computer, tablet, or device with a camera and microphone that is connected to the internet
- Google account not associated with school
- Pencils and Paper to take notes
- Scouts BSA Cyberchip
- Merit Badge pamphlets
- Scoutmaster permission to participate in chosen badges



Program

Refer to this section of the guide to ensure that your Scouts participate in the badges and they are most interested in.

Also, check each badge that your Scout will be participating in to find out about any pre-requisites (requirements that have to be completed outside of the VSE) and additional materials that Scouts will need to complete the badge.



American Business: Earning the American Business merit badge can help Scouts learn practical business matters that will be useful throughout life.

Additional Materials: None

Pre-requisites: None



American Cultures: Learn about different ethnic, racial, and cultural backgrounds in the United States, and the traditions of those cultures.

Additional Materials: None

Pre-requisites: None



American Heritage: Scouts will learn about the history of our nation, and the people who made sacrifices to lead America to where it is today.

Additional Materials: Historical media needed for requirement 5.

Pre-requisites: 2, 3c



American Labor: Labor Unions, Globalization, stockholders, if these terms confuse you, American Labor might be the badge for you!

Additional Materials: Materials to complete requirement 5; scrapbooking or power point.

Pre-requisites: 2



Bird Study: Scouts will learn the importance of birds to many ecosystems, how to spot and identify them, and much more!

Additional Materials: Materials to build a bird feeder or bath. Binoculars.

Pre-requisites: None



Chess: Not only will Scouts get to learn the history of, basic maneuvers of, and strategies of Chess, they will compete via online chess programs to master their newly acquired skills.

Additional Materials: Complete Chess Set (board and pieces)

Pre-requisites: None

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Program Cont.



Citizenship in the Nation: Scouts will learn in depth what it means to be a good citizen of this country. Scouts will even write their local congressional representative regarding a national issue of concern.

Additional Materials: None

Pre-requisites: 2A or 2B or 2C



Citizenship in the World: Scouts will take their citizenship to another level as they learn what it takes to be a steward for good on a worldwide scale.

Additional Materials: None

Pre-requisites:



Exploration: Scouts will learn the history of, importance of, and how to explore! This badge includes planning and executing the exploration of a previously unvisited area.

Additional Materials: None

Pre-requisites:



Genealogy: Scouts will trace their families lineage and learn the importance of Genealogical studies. This badge includes creating a family tree and speaking with a professional in the field.

Additional Materials: None

Pre-requisites:



Inventing: Scouts will learn how to design, create, and implement a new invention to solve a problem in the world around them. Scouts will be able to build a prototype of their inventions and learn how to protect their intellectual property.

Additional Materials: Scouts will need to gather items in order to build their model and working invention.

Pre-requisites: 8A or 8B



Mining in Society: Scouts will study the processes of mining raw minerals and refining them into usable materials. Learn about current and historic mines in your local community!

Additional Materials: A map of your State or County.

Pre-requisites: None



Program Cont.



Oceanography: Scouts who are excited about the oceans and their contents will enjoy this badge. Learn how the underwater landscape is formed, the different parts of the ocean floor, the animals who reside in the Midnight Zone, and the people who work in Oceanography on a daily basis.

Additional Materials: Large plastic container, water, a flat piece of wood

Pre-requisites: 8A



Scouting Heritage: Scouts will get a chance to learn about the origin of Scouting. This badge has Scouts learn about how Scouting has changed through the decades. Scouts will get a chance to see some of the amazing pieces of memorabilia the Del-Mar-Va Council has.

Additional Materials: None

Pre-requisites: 5, 7



Signs, Signals, and Codes: Scouts will learn about various codes and signals used by people around the world, including American Sign Language, Braille, and Morse Code. Scouts will be able to develop their own code to communicate with their peers.

Additional Materials: None

Pre-requisites: 6B, 7



Theater: Theater merit badge has the potential to push Scouts out of their comfort zone as they will write and act in various plays.

Additional Materials: Enthusiasm

Pre-requisites: None



Weather: Scouts will learn all about clouds and our water cycle, as well as the potentially devastating effects our weather systems can have on society and how to prepare for these events.

Additional Materials: Materials to build a weather vane, anemometer, rain gauge, or hygrometer.

Pre-requisites: 9A



Program Schedule

Week 1(3) 7/5-7/9			
1:45-2:45	CIT Nation	Inventing	Genealogy
3:00-4:00	CIT World	Mining in Society	Exploration
4:15-5:15	American Cultures	American Heritage	Weather
Week 2(4) 7/12-7/16			
1:45-2:45	CIT Nation	Signs Signals Codes	Bird Study
3:00-4:00	CIT World	Oceanography	Theater
4:15-5:15	American Business	American Labor	Scouting Heritage
Week 3(5) 7/19-7/23			
1:45-2:45	CIT Nation	Inventing	Scouting Heritage
3:00-4:00	CIT World	Theater	Weather
4:15-5:15	Chess	American Cultures	Bird Study

