



Mining in Society Merit Badge At the 2023 National Scout Jamboree

Summit Bechtel Reserve, West Virginia
July 19-28, 2023



<https://jamboree.scouting.org/>

The National Scout Jamboree is a quadrennial two-week encampment for boys and girls, ages 13-18, in the Scouts BSA program. Held at the Summit Bechtel Reserve in rural West Virginia, it includes activities such as camping, hiking, fishing, boating, skateboarding, and shooting sports, plus cultural and learning experiences for the thousands of Scouts in attendance. Since 2013, the Minerals Education Coalition has provided a booth at national jamborees, introducing Scouts to the Mining in Society merit badge. The 24th World Scout Jamboree, held at the Summit in 2019, welcomed 40,000+ participants from around the globe and the MEC provided a mining exhibit there as well. Delayed from 2021 to 2023 due to the pandemic, planning for the next national jamboree is now underway. Between 10,000 and 15,000 Scouts are expected to attend.

2023 Mining in Society Program

Our 2019 World Scout Jamboree exhibit had a theme of "Mining in Our Modern World: Journey to the Middle of Your Mobile." This helped Scouts make a tangible connection between mining and their daily lives. The exhibit emphasized many messages embodied in the Mining in Society merit badge, but not badge itself, as it is only offered in the USA.

In 2023, we will likely again make use of the "Journey to the Middle of Your Mobile" theme while also emphasizing the Mining in Society merit badge. Most importantly, however, we will continue to help Scouts make a personal, direct connection to the importance of mining to their lives.

Desired Takeaways

A Scout should take with them at least one or more of these key points:

- a. Modern life requires mining. Mining must be done in a sustainable and responsible manner, but modern life is impossible without mining, and we mine the minerals where they are found in concentrated quantities.
- b. Mining activity impacts only a small percentage of the Earth's surface (1/2 of 1%), and is a temporary use of the Earth. Development of any modern mine begins with a reclamation plan for its eventual closure, with a goal similar to that of Scout camping: Leave No Trace
- c. Modern mining in developed countries is one of the safest occupations you can have. And the variety of disciplines necessary to the mining industry makes it an excellent option for a rewarding career in many fields.
- d. Mining exploration is not constrained to the past. The future of mining is in remote, extreme environments, including underground, underwater, in space and even in previously abandoned mines.

Earning the Badge... Or Not

Recognizing the significant amount of time it can take, earning the Mining in Society merit badge at the Jamboree will not be as strongly emphasized as it was in 2017. Also, some aspects of the badge are better suited (and possibly more engaging) for completion at home. However, Scouts will still be able to complete one or more requirements, obtaining a record of partial completion, with encouragement to finish after returning home. The best way to explain this shift in

emphasis is that some requirements may be fulfilled through activities offered at the exhibit, rather than being “taught” specifically for the sake of earning the badge.

Journey to the Middle of Your Mobile

There's nothing more universally relatable to teens than their mobile phones! Our program will include touchpoints to Scouts' mobile devices - and the global nature of mining – challenging Scouts to consider the following:

- a. What minerals and metals are in my cell phone?
- b. Where do they come from – and why?
- c. How are they extracted and processed?
- d. How does safety play a role in modern mining? (PPE, Stay Out/Stay Alive, etc.)
- e. Is my mobile a sustainable use of mining products? And what is reclamation?
- f. What - and where – is the future of mining & exploration?
- g. What are some possible careers and career fields in mining?

Additional Program Considerations

While not yet fully defined, some possible activities for our 2023 exhibit include:

- a. Exploration – Scouts could be given coordinates or directions to locate mineral samples outside the confines of the exhibit. These could be at other nearby merit badge booths, such as Geology, Energy or Sustainability, the Sustainability Treehouse, the CONSOL Energy Bridge or other slightly remote locations where they could learn about the minerals. This could also involve coordination with the Orienteering merit badge booth.
- b. Haul Truck Tire – A static display of a 12-foot haul truck tire was a big draw – as well as a prominent landmark – at the 2017 and 2019 events. We will again plan to have a tire on display!
- c. Meet a Miner – As our booth will be staffed by mining professionals and students, there will be an opportunity for informal discussions and possibly short career presentations.
- d. Mining Machine Simulator – We may be able to arrange for use of a training simulator used to teach machine (truck, loader or dozer) operators.

Staffing

As with the 2017 and 2019 Jamborees, the booth will be staffed primarily with SME members from around the US, as well as local mining professionals who may volunteer to work one or more days. All one- or two-week staff will be registered BSA volunteers who have completed the BSA's Youth Protection Training program.

Costs

The fee for staff – which includes on-site meals and lodging, but not transportation to and from the event - will be \$700 for one week or \$1200 for both weeks. The fee for young adult staff (ages 16-33) will be \$400 for one week or \$675 for both weeks. While higher than the fees for the 2017 National Jamboree, this is lower than the fees for the 2019 World Jamboree. Additionally, you read that right: The “Young Adult” fee for **staff up to age 33** represents a great opportunity for SME student members and Young Leaders to get involved. (There will not be a charge for local day volunteers.) Fees will be payable directly to the BSA.

Contact

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