



MeritBadge.Info

MeritBadge.Info started as a Wood Badge ticket item (I used to be a bear...) and has turned into a long-term hobby. It is a free service offered by Rodrigo Cano and Mike Jenkins. There are two primary parts.

List of Events

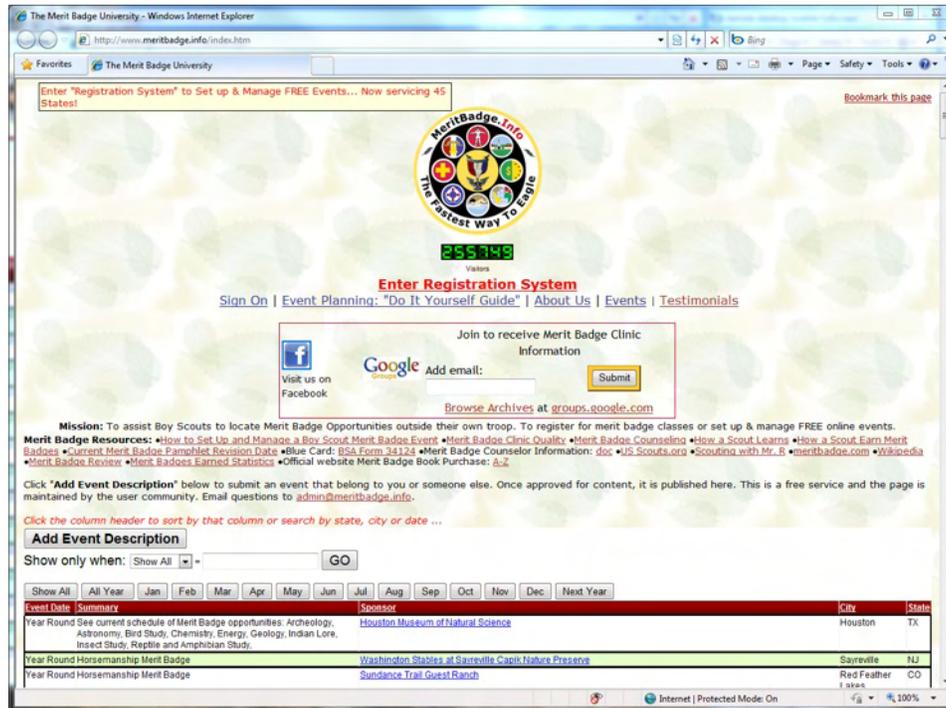


Figure 1 - List of Events

The main page offers helpful tips to plan and organize your own events. These are based on nearly a decade of experience planning and managing events involving over 1000 scouts in a single day. We include links to other sites that offer guidance and helpful tips to making the event fun, educational, and interesting for the scouts.

Another feature of the main page is our list of events. You can select events by state, city, date, or search for specific events. To prevent abuse, each event is previewed by one of us before it is published to the main page. This list includes events from over 40 states and is constantly evolving.

Testimonials

The Merit Badge College went great thanks primarily to your help... We had approximately 140 youth and 25 adults. The main surprise is that for the first time, the line was so short that all scouts were able to attend the opening ceremony and not wait in line during the ceremony. Even the doubters on the Scout professional staff were pleasantly surprised...

Thanks again and again and again for all that both of you have done to make my scouting in my neck of the woods a more rewarding experience for all.

William Aldridge
Merit Badge College, Shelton State Community College, Black Warrior Council, Tuscaloosa, Alabama

Here's my take on the online registration system: Overall, it worked very well and was a boon to those of us organizing the event. The following aspects of it were particularly helpful:

1) The ability to "market" the event to scouts outside (in some cases*well* outside) our home district/council. We drew scouts from much further a field than we ever had before.



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- 2) The ability to update available slots in real time. It was a boon to attendees because they knew immediately what badge they could get into, and a boon to us because we could keep the instructors updated on how many scouts to expect. The ability of attendees to withdraw easily online was also helpful . . . scouts who realized they couldn't attend could pull out ahead of time, opening up slots for others. I believe our "no show" rate was lower this year for precisely this reason: Many of those who might simply not have showed up in previous years took the time to formally withdraw since they could do so by accessing the website.
- 3) The ability to have, in effect, the attendees do the data entry for us . . . a great savings in work over the old system of typing the information from paper forms into a spreadsheet.
- 4) The ability of instructors to post prerequisites and links to worksheets, etc. on the registration site, ensuring (at least in theory) that the scouts would have ready access to them before the event. I know that far more scouts in my class came with their prerequisites prepared and ready to be signed off than has been the case before...

Dr. A Bowdoin Van Riper
Social and International Studies Department, Southern Polytechnic State University, Marietta, Georgia

I love your new registration site! It makes it very easy to sign up for classes. It is much better than using e-mail with spreadsheets.

James Olson
BSA Troop 204, Powder Springs, GA

Online Registration

Date	Title (click for details)	Location	Registration Opens	Last Day to Register	Fee	Council	District	Type	Unit	Sign Up
9/28/2009	Coweta District Leader Training	2956 Sharpsburg Mccollum Rd Newnan, Ga 30265	8/12/2009	9/26/2009	All	Flint River	Coweta	District		Sign Up
10/3/2009	9th Annual Aviation Merit Badge at Lockheed Martin Aeronautics	86 South Cobb Drive, Marietta, 30063	9/3/2009	9/28/2009	All	Atlanta Area	Foothills	LOCKHEED LMLA		Sign Up
10/7/2009	Evening of Merit with FBIA	3635 Coal Mountain Dr., Cumming, GA 30028	9/3/2009	10/5/2009	All	Atlanta Area		Troop		Sign Up
10/10/2009	9th Annual Merit Badge University at Kennesaw State University	1000 Chastain Road, Kennesaw, GA 30144	8/12/2009	10/2/2009	All	Atlanta Area	Foothills	Troop	1776	Sign Up
10/10/2009	Merit Badge Day in Orange County, CA	23 Lake Irvine, CA 92604	9/10/2009	10/3/2009	All	Orange County	RCM	Troop	856	Sign Up
10/10/2009	Public Safety Merit Badge Day-Colleedale, TN (Chattanooga Area)	4910 Swinysar Drive Ooltewah, TN 37363	9/25/2009	10/8/2009	All	Cherokee Area	John Ross	Troop	99	Sign Up
10/17/2009	GARS JOTA Fall Frequency Festival	Rhodes Jordan Park, Lawrenceville, GA	9/10/2009	10/14/2009	All	Northeast Georgia	Apalachee	Crew	73	Sign Up
10/17/2009	JOTA (Lamboree on the Air) at American Legion Post 264	6251 Hwy Road, Mableton, GA 30126	9/26/2009	10/18/2009	All	Atlanta Area	Covered Bridge	Troop		Sign Up
10/17/2009	NFARL Annual JOTA & Radio Merit Badge Event	Waller Park Extension 160 Dobbs Dr Roswell GA 30075	9/23/2009	10/9/2009	All	Atlanta Area	Milton	NFARL		Sign Up
10/17/2009	NFARL Annual JOTA & Radio Merit Badge Event	Waller Park Extension 160 Dobbs Dr Roswell GA 30075	9/23/2009	10/9/2009	All	Atlanta Area	Chattahoochee	NFARL		Sign Up
10/24/2009	9th Annual WEBERLOS SCIENTIST FIN at Lockheed Martin	86 South Cobb Drive, Marietta, GA 30063	9/12/2009	10/19/2009	All	Atlanta Area	Foothills	Lochheed L		Sign Up
10/24/2009	Cherokee District Fall 2009 Advance A Rama, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources, UGA	180 Greene Street, Athens, GA 30602-2152	10/3/2009	10/19/2009	All	Northeast Georgia	Cherokee			Sign Up
10/24/2009	Smithsonian Environmental Research Center	647 Confees Wharf Rd.	8/27/2009	10/24/2009	All	Baltimore Area	Capitol			Sign Up
10/31/2009	Rotary Club of Stone Mountain Merit Badge Clinic at Smoke Rise Elementary School	1991 Silver Hill Road, Stone Mountain, GA 30087	9/15/2009	10/25/2009	All	Atlanta Area	Hightower Trail	Rotary Clb		Sign Up
11/7/2009	FBIA Day of Merit	3635 Coal Mountain Dr., Cumming, GA 30028	9/15/2009	11/1/2009	All	Atlanta Area		Troop		Sign Up

Figure 2 - Online Registration

After running the Merit Badge University for two years, we realized a manual registration process was consuming far more than our "hour per week" allocated for scouting. We created a web-based application that is easy to use, comprehensive, audience focused, and fast. The online registration offers a first-come, first-serve option for every class. As the class fills, the seats are removed. Once the final seat is taken, the class drops off the list. The registration system is targeted to several audiences:



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- 1) The **Scouter** – Unit leaders or advancement staff can quickly register their scouts for an event. Some events offer payment using Paypal to ensure immediate collection of funds.
- 2) The **Event Manager** – Event planners can build the event, publish the event, generate reports, contact unit leaders for payment of clarification, manage scouts, track payments, and manage counselors
- 3) The **Counselors** – Merit badge counselors can view their class roster, edit their profiles, tailor their biography to each merit badge, contact their student via email for prerequisites or class changes, and update items completed after the event.
- 4) The **Council or District Merit Badge Counselor Manager** – can add counselors, track counselors by badge, and approve merit badge counselors.

Recent statistics for overall usage of the site and location of upcoming events:

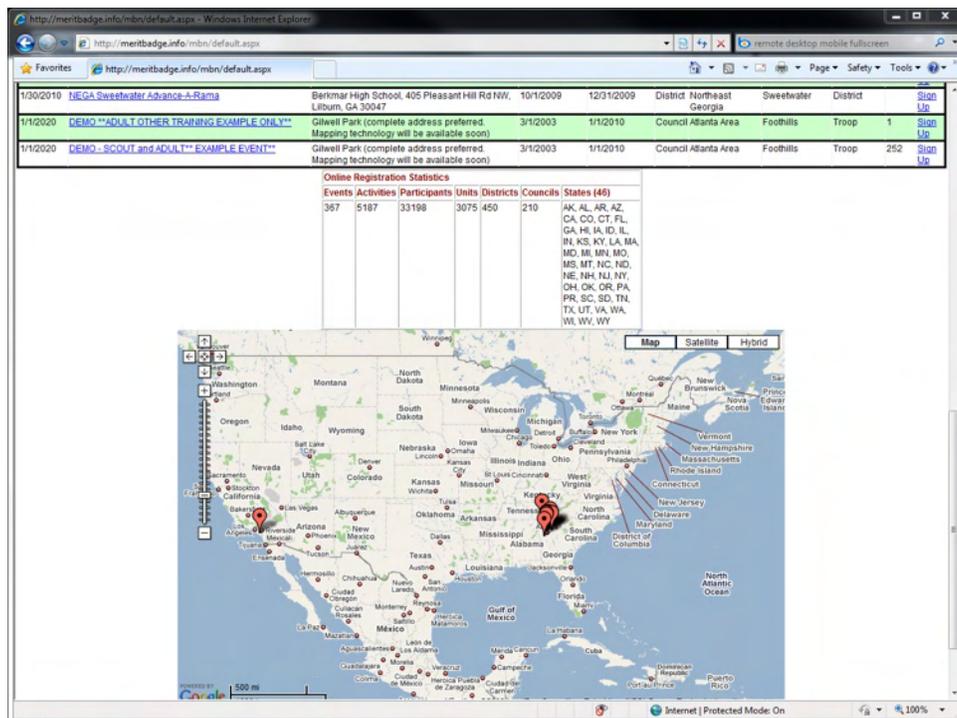


Figure 3 – Registration Statistics

Privacy Policy

Mike and Rodrigo built this system to allow Scouters to sign up for events on a first-come, first serve basis and to allow event managers to focus on event quality by automating the drudgery associated with collecting information. All data collected by this site is used to simplify and expedite the registration process. This information is not for sale to anyone and is not shared with third parties.

Intuitive

The online registration system is easy to use. Anyone who has placed an order on Ebay is capable of managing events or registering their scouts using our system.



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Secure

The online registration system is secure. Each user has a unique username and password that must be entered before they are allowed to use the system. Each transaction is audited for debugging and validation purposes.

The screenshot shows the 'Update User Profile' page in a web browser. The page title is 'Update User Profile'. The form contains the following fields and options:

- Email (this is your login username):** mjenkins@isvirtual.com. Below it is a 'Change Email' link and a note: 'To change your old email address, enter the new one here and click the link'.
- First Name:** Mike
- Last Name:** Jenkins
- Credentials (MO, PMP, etc.):** PMP, MBA
- Anonymous:**
- Address:** 1030 Westersham Place. Visible
- City:** Marietta
- State:** GA
- Zip:** 30054
- Council:** Atlanta Area
- District:** Foothills
- Unit:** Troop 252. [Change Unit](#)
- Role (ex. Scoutmaster, DAC, etc.):** Eagle Advisor, DAC
- Home Phone:** (770) 428-2400. Visible
- Mobile Phone:** (678) 778-1195. Visible
- Work Phone:** (678) 778-1195. Visible
- Employer:** Quology
- Type of Work:** Software Development
- Website:** www.isvirtual.com

Below the form is a 'Biography/Merit Badge Prerequisites/Additional Instructions' section with a text area containing HTML code for a bio and a photo link.

Figure 4 – User Profile

Each user (scouter, counselor, event manager, etc.) has their own profile. Parts of this profile can be marked anonymous to prohibit display of this information. Judges, celebrities, peace officers, and others who need to protect their privacy can check the visible box to show their address and phone information or they can check the anonymous box to make them 100% unknown to the scouters using the MeritBadge.Info registration system.

Learn More

Test drive MeritBadge.Info by opening your browser to <http://www.meritbadge.info>. Peruse the main page, then click the link for the online registration system. Click the Sign On link at the upper right corner of the page. When prompted for username and password, enter BP and BP. Baden Powell is one of our most frequent users.



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email:

password:

Remember Me

[Sign On](#) 

[Email My Password](#) 

[Register New User](#) 

Figure 5 – User Sign-On

Request Information or System Changes

Rodrigo Cano	Site Architect	Rodrigo@meritbadge.info
Mike Jenkins	Application Developer	Mike@meritbadge.info
Rodrigo and Mike		admin@meritbadge.info