



Eastern State Penitentiary Merit Badge Packet
Virtual Scout Day: Architecture Merit Badge

Greeting Scouts!

Thank you for signing up to participate in Eastern State Penitentiary Historic Site's virtual Scout Day, which will help you earn your Architecture Merit Badge. To complete this badge, you will participate in five fascinating programs featuring members of the historic site's education and conservation team designed just for the Boy Scouts of America!

Our team will help you understand the international significance of Eastern State Penitentiary, explore the fascinating profession of conservation, and reflect on the complicated role of prison architecture in our criminal justice system. Although this program is not taking place at Eastern State Penitentiary Historic Site, we are here to help you. If you have any questions or need any more resources to help you complete your merit badge requirements, email mm@easternstate.org. If you are local to Philadelphia, we hope you will consider visiting in person for a self-guided tour.

Instructions:

Each virtual session is designed to satisfy at least one requirement for the Architecture Merit Badge. We recommend that you keep your badge packet (this PDF or [this Google form](#)) in front of you during the sessions as the session leader will discuss information relevant to a badge requirement.

After attending our virtual programs and completing all other badge requirements independently, please submit your completed badge packet. The packet can be submitted via [Google form](#) or printed and emailed/mailed to --

Eastern State Penitentiary Historic Site
Attention: Virtual Scout Day
2027 Fairmount Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19130
mm@easternstate.org

Please copy an adult caregiver or scout leader if submitting via email.

An Eastern State Penitentiary Historic Site merit badge counselor will review your answers and contact you via email with any questions or comments and to approve your virtual blue card. Please submit responses within two weeks of the virtual event and allow 1-2 weeks for a response from Eastern State Penitentiary staff. Historic site staff are certified through the BSA's Cradle of Liberty Council.

Contact Information - Name: _____

Contact Information - Email: _____

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Eastern State Penitentiary Merit Badge Packet

Session 2 (11:15am - 11:45am)

Requirement 3b:

After learning about the building of Eastern State and construction projects in the museum today, answer the following:

- What factors did the builders consider when selecting the materials used in the construction of Eastern State?
- How did architectural style and building materials change throughout the prison's history?
- What are the major construction projects happening inside of Eastern State today? How do they impact the historic building and its operation as a museum?

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Eastern State Penitentiary Merit Badge Packet

Session 3 (1:00pm - 1:45pm)

Requirement 2a, 2b, 2c:

A scout pledges to "be conservation minded." After attending session 3, answer the following:

- Define the term "sustainable architecture." Identify three features typical of green buildings.
- What is architectural conservation? Identify three core principles of architectural conservation.
- Discuss why some buildings are conserved and others are not. How are conservation decisions made? Who makes them?
- Why was Eastern State Penitentiary, an abandoned prison in the middle of a major city, saved from demolition and turned into a museum?
- Name one of the unique challenges that Eastern State conservators face.

