

EASTERN STATE PENITENTIARY

Virtual Scout Day: Architecture
BSA Architecture Merit Badge
GSUSA STEM Career Exploration Badge
GSUSA Think Like an Engineer Badge

Schedule and Session Descriptions

All programs will start promptly. Please be present in the Zoom room 5 minutes prior to the start time. The link for the room is provided in the confirmation email you received from Eastern State.

Session 1- Let the Doors Be of Iron: A Virtual Tour of Eastern State Penitentiary

An Eastern State Educator provides participants with an introduction to the history and architecture of Eastern State Penitentiary. Participants learn how Eastern State's design reflected the intentions and philosophy of the founders, and how the building's architecture influenced the lives of the people who lived and worked inside its walls. Scouts discuss the following questions:

- How did the building's design promote security and surveillance?
- What challenges did architect John Haviland face when designing a prison meant for total isolation of prisoners?
- How has prison architecture changed over time?

Start: **11:00 am ET**

End: **11:45 am ET**

Session 2- "A Model for the World": The Ethics and Influence of Prison Architecture

Eastern State Penitentiary's ground-breaking architectural design spread throughout the world. Its influence can be seen in more than 300 buildings on five different continents including prisons, schools, and hospitals. Scouts will –

- Learn: How Eastern State's design continues to influence prison architecture today. Are those influences positive or negative?
- Discuss: What ethical concerns surround prison architecture during Eastern State's history and in prisons today?

- Examine: What are the debates within the field of architecture today concerning the design of spaces for solitary confinement and capital punishment? Should prison architects design buildings for these purposes?

Start: 11:45 am ET

End: 12:15 pm ET

12:15 pm-12:45 pm ET- Lunch Break

Session 3: Building a Prison, Saving a Landmark

Participants are introduced to the fascinating career of historic preservation. Participants hear from Eastern State's award-winning conservation team and learn about the critical role they play in the mission of the historic site. The massive 10-acre penitentiary was completely abandoned for over 20 years after its closure in 1971, presenting a complex challenge to the engineers and architects tasked with saving it from time and the elements. Participants will –

- Explore the multidisciplinary world of architectural preservation. Who is considered a preservationist? What guides the field of preservation?
- Learn why some buildings are preserved and others are not.
- Examine why Eastern State Penitentiary was saved from demolition and turned into a museum.
- Dive into the nitty gritty of preserving Eastern State from decay and collapse. How does an understanding of nature, history, and human behavior help preservationists save the building?

Start: 12:45 pm ET

End: 1:45 pm ET

Session 4- Architecture and Historic Preservation Career Panel

Having met with individuals with varied careers in architecture and historic preservation, this session will offer insight into the education, training, and experience required for a career in architecture, conservation, or engineering. Participants will –

- Engage with professionals in and around the field of architecture and historic preservation.
- Learn through a wide lens the steps typically undertaken to begin a career in the fields specific to our panelists.
- Demonstrate interest in one or more of the careers in conversation with an Eastern State staff member and/or self-reflection and writing.

Start: 1:45 pm ET

End: 2:15 pm ET