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](image)

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.
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

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:
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](image)

**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.
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.

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 scouts 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.
Figure 5 – User Sign-On

Request Information or System Changes

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Email</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rodrigo Cano</td>
<td>Site Architect</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Rodrigo@meritbadge.info">Rodrigo@meritbadge.info</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mike Jenkins</td>
<td>Application Developer</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Mike@meritbadge.info">Mike@meritbadge.info</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Rodrigo and Mike</td>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:admin@meritbadge.info">admin@meritbadge.info</a></td>
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