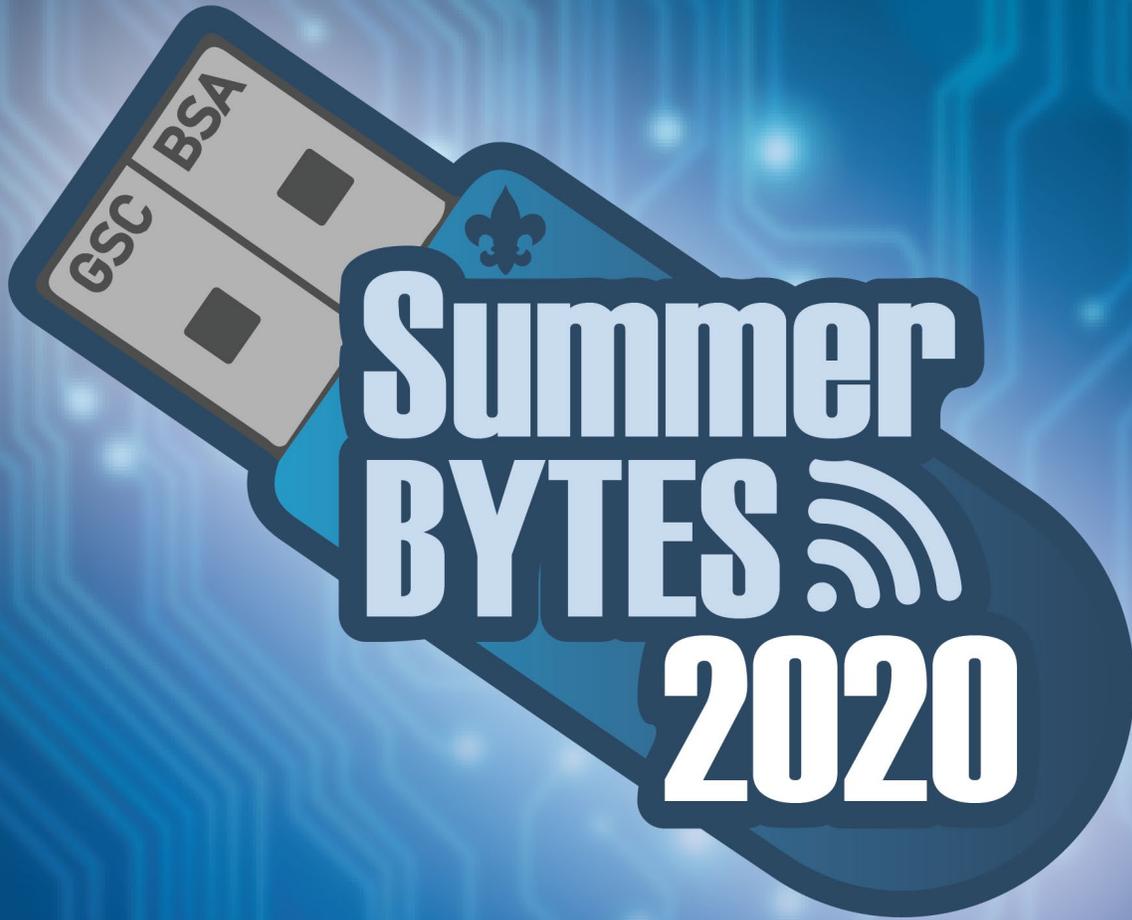


# Leader's Guide



Your Guide to Registration, Program, and More!



revised 7/8/2020

# Intro to Summer Bytes

To our fellow Scouts, Leaders, and Parents,

Summer Bytes 2020 is a collaboration of our best virtual program opportunities and the hands-on experience of traditional Merit Badge instruction. The goal of this virtual program is to provide our Scouts with a fun activity before the Fall, all from the comfort of your own home. While this Adventure is online, Summer Bytes will not feel like an “online” camp.

Virtual merit badge sessions, interactive camp-wide activities, and entertaining events are just some of the opportunities that await this summer. Our group of Staff and Volunteers is dedicated to giving your Scout a great Summer adventure.

This guide will serve as a means for you to better understand the finer points of the 2020 Summer Bytes program. Details include information regarding registration, logistical operations, and program features. Schedules of merit badge offerings and camp-wide programs are also included.

If you have any questions concerning the 2020 Summer Bytes program, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are here to serve you.

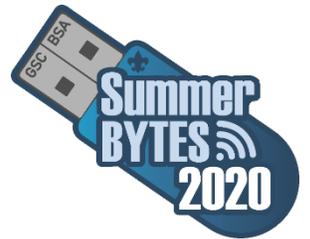
We are glad that you will be joining us for this new adventure during the summer of 2020. See you in Summer Bytes!

Yours in Scouting,

The Scouting Bytes Team

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## Health & Safety at Summer Bytes

Safety remains our number one concern for all scouts and leaders participating in the program. Youth Protection policies, the Buddy System, and guidelines provided through the BSA Cyber Chip program are important for ensuring that everyone involved in 2020 Summer Bytes has a secure experience. More information about conducting safe online Scouting activities can be found at <https://www.scouting.org/training/youth-protection/>

## Summer Schedule

2020 Summer Bytes will operate a two-week season. Merit Badges will be divided up by “Program Track”. Scouts can take a total of 4 merit badges per track and are welcome to register for more than one Adventure, if their schedule allows. Scouts will also have the chance to participate in additional camp-wide programs.

Merit badges classes will be held Monday-Friday.

**Week 1:** July 20<sup>th</sup> to July 24<sup>th</sup>

**Week 2:** July 27<sup>th</sup> to July 31<sup>st</sup>

## Tentaroo

Scouts will sign-up for their individual merit badge sessions and camp-wide program via Tentaroo, the same system used typically for summer camp registration.

## Choosing your Summer Bytes Adventure

Participants have the option to choose from any of our 6 different Summer Bytes Adventures. To learn about our program offerings, see our Program Overview on page 4. When you select your Summer Bytes Adventure in Tentaroo, your schedule will update with the classes associated with your desired Adventure.

i.e. if you select our “Outdoor Adventure”, your schedule will show Camping, Hiking, Wilderness Survival and Backpacking Merit Badges.

## Q: Can my Scout sign up for just one Merit Badge?

A: We are organizing our merit badge offerings by various Adventures to allow for a streamlined process for packing and shipping merit badge supplies. When you select an Adventure, you will receive the materials for each of the Merit Badges associated with your Adventure. If your Scout already has one or more of the badges in their Adventure, they are not *required* to attend those badges. You can add more Adventures as your schedule permits.

## Camp Fees

Full balance of fees must be paid prior to the beginning of camp. The beginning of camp is considered the first week a scout or leader participates in any part of the Summer Bytes program (merit badges, trainings, camp-wide activities, etc.).

<u>Scout fee (one time)</u>	<u>Additional Track Fee</u>
\$75.00 per scout	\$50.00 per track

## *What does my fee get me?*

For scouts, your fee for Summer Bytes will allow you to participate in one program track throughout the week of camp. Merit badges classes will be kept small to ensure quality instruction and Scout-oriented service. Each scout will receive materials needed for merit badges and activities, along with a few exclusive Summer Bytes items in our Summer Bytes Welcome Kit.

## Program Overview

Summer Bytes 2020 will offer scouts an opportunity to participate in various Summer Bytes Adventures. These Adventures will each explore a particular realm of Scouting, and each will cover a number of Merit Badges relevant to the theme of that Adventure. Our qualified Merit Badge Counselors will lead fun and engaging program.

When you register for Summer Bytes, your one-time fee includes your choice of one of our Summer Bytes Adventures. You have the option to build your schedule and add additional Adventures for a discounted fee! In addition to daily Merit Badge instruction, participants will enjoy other program offerings including evening activities and other camp-wide events.

We are excited to offer a wide variety of merit badges through our 6 different Summer Bytes Adventures this summer, some of which are unique to the virtual program. Our trained counselors are ready to provide a hands-on and exciting experience with each badge that is taken in our virtual program. We have also put together a First Year Camper program, dubbed Universal Scouting Basics (USB) that balances rank advancement, Merit Badges, and fun!

## Summer Bytes Adventures

### Conservation Adventure

- Environmental Science
- Mammal Study
- Nature
- Soil & Water Conservation

### Outdoor Adventure

- Camping
- Hiking
- Wilderness Survival
- Backpacking

### Citizenship Adventure

- Citizenship in the Community
- Citizenship in the Nation
- Citizenship in the World
- American Heritage

### Animal Adventure

- Pets
- Veterinary Medicine
- Animal Science
- Oceanography

### Eagle Adventure

- Personal Fitness
- Personal Management
- Family Life
- Cooking
- and a Life to Eagle Seminar!

### Universal Scouting Basics (USB)

A virtual First Year Camper Program! Learn basic Scout Skills and work on rank requirements Scout Rank through First Class! As an added plus, earn your First Aid Merit Badge!

**Be sure to review our list of Merit Badge Pre-Requisites!!**

**[www.gulfstreamcouncil.org/summerbytes](http://www.gulfstreamcouncil.org/summerbytes)**

## Program Highlights

### Daily Instruction

The daily instruction schedule consists of four 110-minute blocks. Scouts will work directly with Merit Badge Counselors through the web.

### Universal Scouting Basics (USB)

Get ready for our first ever VIRTUAL First Year Camper Program! Dubbed, “Universal Scouting Basics (USB)” this program will work on basic Scout Skills and rank requirements from Scout Rank through First Class!

### Daily Newsletters

Each morning, scouts and leaders will receive digital newsletters that highlight the happenings of Summer Bytes and provide important links for participating in the camp-wide activities of that day.

### Scout Riddle Challenge

Our campers, with an eye for detail, will notice clues and puzzles abound! Each day, in our newsletter, scouts will receive a new riddle to solve. Scouts will work to solve this challenge and be entered a drawing to win the Grand Prize on Friday night!

### Brown Bag Lunch Series!

As part of each Scout’s Summer Bytes Welcome Kit – as well as in daily newsletters – they will receive instructions and some supplies to complete a variety of scouting projects and activities during this lunchtime challenge event!

### Opening Orientation

The opening orientation for the 2020 Summer Bytes an event no one will want to miss. It will include some fun and interactive activities, as well as an engaging orientation for how the week will work!

### Camp-wide Activities

Summer Bytes 2020 will be hosting several evening activities during the week for scouts to participate in. These fun events will range from games, competitions, and more!

### Scout’s Own Service

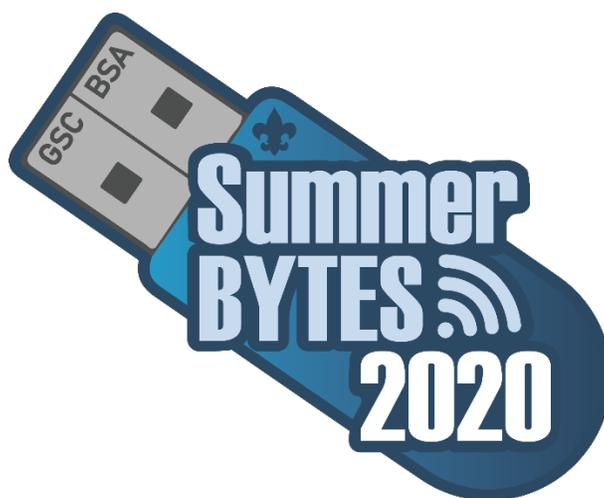
A Scout is Reverent. Join us for our staff-led religious service with prayers, reflections, and some uplifting songs.

### Closing Campfire and Awards!

Let’s celebrate the week we all had together at Summer Bytes. Recognitions for all the activities and accomplishments from throughout the week will be presented, including the prestigious Summer Bytes Techy Award.

### The Summer Bytes “Techy” Award

The purpose of this award is to recognize those Scouts who go above and beyond in their time at Summer Bytes. Recipients will be recognized during the closing ceremonies on Friday evening.



## Advancement and Merit Badges

To have a successful experience in the merit badge program, scouts must prepare before camp and stick with it at camp! It is our belief that most badges offered during Summer Bytes can be completed if the scout sets his or her mind to it. Here are a few tips for ensuring those completed merit badges during our virtual program:

- Our staff have received thorough training to conduct quality and interactive online sessions to fulfill all your advancement needs. Be sure to work with them and ask them questions.
- Each scout should prepare a detailed plan for what they want to accomplish as participants in Summer Bytes. A merit badge is an individual project for each scout. Unit leaders and parents should check-in with their scouts throughout their weeks to ensure they are progressing through their skills.
- Be sure to have any advanced work done before the sessions begin. If you need a note from your Scoutmaster to verify you've done some work with your troop beforehand, make sure you have it ready to submit it to your counselor.

## Requirements and Advanced Preparation

Merit Badge requirements are as stated in the current edition of the Scouts BSA Requirements Book. Our counselors take great pride in their skill instruction, and the integrity of the merit badge program.

We do not have the ability to change requirements. All requirements must be completed as written. Under these conditions, some badges will require work to be completed prior to the week you're taking that badge in Summer Bytes. Please see the Merit Badge Opportunities pages for specific information on any advance work required for each merit badge.

Since supplies will be sent to each scout in their Summer Bytes Welcome Kit, sign-ups must be completed 7 days before a scout plans to take their first merit badge(s). **If an additional Welcome Kit needs to be sent because of late registration, an additional fee of \$25 may apply.** Once registration is complete, scouts will be enrolled in their classes with their counselors and both should prepare for the week of engaging instruction.

## Logging On

Our daily skills instructions and camp-wide activities will be conducted through Zoom. Make sure that you are connected with a device with microphone and webcam capabilities. Create a Zoom account to allow for an easier sign-on process. Zoom Links, documents, newsletters, etc. will be uploaded to a Google Classroom daily. Closer to the start of your Summer Bytes Adventure, the Google Classroom invitation will be shared with each participant.

## Merit Badge Records & Blue Cards

Partials and completes earned in Summer Bytes will be recorded in Tentaroo at the end of each week of camp. Parents and leaders will be able to access this information for their own records and to submit to your unit for recognition. No physical blue cards will be issued since all the information will be provided in each scout's Tentaroo account.

## Questions About Merit Badges?

If you have any further questions about our offerings in Summer Bytes, please reach out to Robert Ulrich, Program Assistant at [robert.ulrich@scouting.org](mailto:robert.ulrich@scouting.org) or call the Gulf Stream Council Service Center at 561-694-8585.