

# **Mining and Society Merit Badge Day**



**A collaboration between Vulcan Park and  
Museum, Sloss Furnaces National Historic  
Landmark, and the Greater Alabama Council**

**Spring 2022: May 7**

**Fall 2022: October 15**

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# Introduction

When one looks at Birmingham, Alabama, one is looking at the product of mining and industry. Indeed, it could be said that Birmingham is a society created from mining- mining iron ore to make steel, quarrying limestone to use in the furnaces of industry, mining coal to stoke the fires of progress and growth. Yes, the Pittsburgh of the South is built upon the embarrassment of riches that were brought forth from the mines that dotted the landscape.

The program you're about to enjoy is the product of a collaboration between Vulcan Park, Sloss Furnaces National Historic Landmark, local historians, and the Greater Alabama Council. Even though this project is still in its infancy, we are looking forward to a bright future for this endeavor. We're glad you have made the decision to join us on this inaugural program and we hope that in addition to completing advancement requirements, you enjoy the immersive experience of learning about a vital sector of our national economy and the history of a beautiful city.

Thank you for joining us this weekend, we're glad you're here!

David Self  
Program Director,  
Greater Alabama Council

# **Program and General Information**

## **Who Can Attend:**

The Mining and Society Merit Badge Day is open to all Scouts BSA youth. Both Scouts BSA members from the Greater Alabama Council and from other Boy Scouts of America Councils are welcome to attend. This event is open only to Scouts BSA members. Unfortunately, this program is not structured for Cub Scouts.

## **Registration:**

Registration will be done through JotForm. The link can be found on 1bsa.org as well as in social media postings for the event. Due to the nature of the program and facility capacity size, the program is limited to the first 50 participants.

When registering, please be sure to provide an email address that you check regularly or have access to regularly. When submitting your email address, please double check spelling, capital letters, or special characters to ensure that you are able to get the most up-to-date information possible.

## **Chaperones:**

Due to the nature of this event and the change of locations required for the program, it is encouraged that Scouts be accompanied by a chaperone who holds a valid driver's license and is above twenty-one (21) years of age. Chaperones will be able to observe and participate in the program, but are requested to allow Scouts to be as close to the front of the activity or classroom as possible so they may receive the most benefit possible.

## **Attire:**

Scouts are requested to wear the Scouts BSA Field Uniform (Class A). All participants are requested to wear comfortable, closed-toe footwear that you are able to use for both trail walking and normal everyday walking.

## **Event Cost:**

The event fees for the Mining in Society Day will be \$30.00 which will cover event insurance, access to both Vulcan Park and Sloss Furnaces, program supplies, lunch, and a patch.

**Accessibility:**

Parts of this program will require walking and navigating across uneven ground. Part of the experience at Vulcan Park will cover more than a mile on trails along the side of Red Mountain. Accommodations can be made, but we ask that you notify David Self, Program Director with the Greater Alabama Council, no less than two weeks prior to the event date (April 22 for the May 7<sup>th</sup> date, or September 23 for the October 8<sup>th</sup> date).

**Check-In:**

Check-in will begin at 9:15am at Vulcan Park. Check-in will take place on the main plaza beneath the statue of Vulcan and outside the main doors of the Vulcan Park Museum. Check-In will close at 10am. Anyone arriving after 10am should contact David Self upon arrival via cellphone at 205-540-2302.

**Lunch:**

Lunch will be provided for participants only (Scout and Chaperone). Details and other information will be emailed to participants prior to the start of the event. Any dietary restrictions can be submitted to David Self at [david.self@scouting.org](mailto:david.self@scouting.org) no later than April 20<sup>th</sup> for the May event or September 20<sup>th</sup> for the October event.

**Event Cancellation Policy**

All Greater Alabama Council events, unless otherwise published, are rain-or-shine events. This event, by its design, will have both outdoor and indoor elements. In the event of forecasted severe or inclement weather, participants will be contacted and advised of the event status and alternative options.

# Merit Badge Program Information

The primary focus of this day will be working towards the Mining and Society Merit Badge. Scouts will work on completing the majority of the requirements for this badge. There will be work that must be completed independently of this event to complete the badge and fulfill all requirements. Additionally, Scouts will also have the opportunity to complete selected requirements on two other merit badges, American Labor and American Heritage. Again, to complete those badges, Scouts will be expected to complete requirements that are not covered by this program independently.

It is requested that all Scouts obtain and familiarize themselves with the material presented in the Mining in Society Merit Badge Book, available from the local Scout Shop or Troop Library. It is advisable that Scouts also obtain and familiarize themselves with the material presented in the American Labor and American Heritage Merit Badge Books as well.

## **Mining in Society:**

Requirements met: 2, 3, 4, 5b, 5e, 7c, and 8b.

## **American Labor:**

Requirements met: 1 and 4

## **American Heritage:**

Requirements met: 4a, 4b, 6

Within one week of completing the program, participants will receive a letter that can be shared with their Scoutmaster and Troop Advancement Chair detailing the scope of the program, the requirements met, and other important information that they will need to fulfill their advancement work within the Troop. This letter will also facilitate uploading the information into ScoutBook for the Scout.

# **Vulcan Park Information**

Vulcan, Birmingham Alabama's colossal statue, is the world's largest cast iron statue and considered one of the most memorable works of civic art in the United States. Designed by Italian artist Giuseppe Moretti and cast from local iron in 1904, Vulcan has overlooked Alabama's largest city from atop Red Mountain since the 1930s.

Scouts will tour Vulcan Park and Museum, learning about early industrial history and why Vulcan was created. In addition to the tour, participants will get to see inside Lone Pine Mine and learn from local mining historian and half of Underground Birmingham, Jeff Newman, who will discuss early mining operations in and around the city. All participants will have the opportunity to go up Vulcan Tower for the best view in the city!

Most of the tour takes place outdoors, so please dress appropriately. Masks are not required, but are encouraged while inside Vulcan Center. Guests may be dropped off near Vulcan Center, but all vehicles must be parked in the parking lot near the ticket booth.

# **Sloss Furnaces National Historic Landmark Information**

Sloss Furnaces National Historic Landmark is the only 20<sup>th</sup> century blast furnace site in America that is currently being preserved and interpreted as an industrial museum. The Sloss Furnace Company was created by James Withers Sloss in 1881 and was the second iron furnace company in Birmingham's history. Also, as the longest running furnace site in Birmingham's history, Sloss Furnaces has connections to all aspects of Birmingham history as well as a wide range of science, technology, and engineering topics.

Scouts will take a tour of the facility learning how iron is made, the importance of industry to Birmingham, and the experiences of the men who worked the furnaces. Afterward, scouts will listen to a presentation by Museum Education Coordinator, Ty Malugani, who will discuss the ways that mining and labor played an important role in Sloss and Birmingham. He will also discuss the process of turning a site like Sloss into a museum and how it earned the National Historic Landmark designation.

The tour of Sloss Furnaces is primarily outdoors, so please prepare for the weather. Masks are required inside the Visitor Center, but not outside on site. The entrance to the site is right across from the Back Forty Beer Company and directly next to a parked black train engine. If a train is blocking 32<sup>nd</sup> Street the best way to get around it is to take the 35<sup>th</sup> Street bridge onto 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue North which will take you back to 32<sup>nd</sup> Street on the Sloss side.

## **Schedule of the day**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Notes</b>
9:15-10am	Check-In	Vulcan Park Museum Main Entrance	
10am	Classes and tours begin	Vulcan Park, Lone Pine Mine #3, Vulcan Trail	
12pm	Lunch	Vulcan Park	Lunch will be provided, please be sure to follow all posted signs and information. Please leave the area cleaner than we found it.
1:15pm	Check-In	Sloss Furnaces National Historic Landmark- Main Parking	Please make the effort to be on time. More information will be emailed to registered participants.
1:30pm	Classes and tours begin	Sloss Furnaces Visitor Center and Education facility	