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### Railroading Merit Badge Day at the Chicagoland Lionel Railroad Club

What do you get when you add 125 Scouts, both Boys and Girls, 75 adult scouters and volunteers and a 3600 square foot facility designed to explore and enjoy the hobby of model railroading? You get 125 Scouts learning about a part of America’s past, train safety, and how trains move product and people.



Opening Ceremony at the Chicagoland Lionel Railroad Club hosting Railroading Merit Badge

June 1, 2019 was the date for 125 Scouts along with their Leaders and members of the Chicagoland Lionel Railroad Club, located in New Lenox, Illinois to come together to learn and work on the Railroading Merit Badge.



Presentations by Herb Koch and Kevin Barry welcome the Scouts and prepare them for the day



In and around our layout, Scouts listen to Engineer Brian about Operation Lifesaver insights

Utilizing the CLRC layout and additional instructional spaces, the Scouts learned about model railroad gauges and scale, railroad equipment and its designated use and planned a dream trip via an Amtrak passenger train.



**Scouts, male and female learn about different hobby scales and review various types of cars and trains**

The Scouts got to design a model railroad and explore different career fields in railroading. Operation Lifesaver Volunteer, and a Licensed Engineer for both steam and diesel equipment with 24 years of experience, Engineer Brian presented the key Operation Lifesaver information. The RRMB day included a lunch of hot dogs, chips and a cold drink, so everyone could relax and compare their notes.



**Lunch is served and all Scouts enjoy taking a moment to relax and get ready for the afternoon sessions**

The day ended with the Scouts, many of whom were earning their first Merit Badge, meeting with one of our many Counselors. Our event draws Scouts from as far as Indiana and Wisconsin. With this year's success, there will certainly be a Railroading Merit Badge Day in 2020. We were also grateful to see the number of girls, who are new to the Scouting program, come out and enjoy the opportunity to the earn the Railroading Merit Badge.



**Counselors review the RR Merit Badge with the Scouts. Day is done and all are ready to head home.**

Story by Kevin Barry  
Pictures by Jerry Girard  
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