

Environmental Science Merit Badge

Hidden Oaks Nature Center

Environmental Science is a five-hour class. Scouts should bring a snack and plenty of water. Please, no red liquids.

What to bring:

- Blue card, pen and pencil
- Appropriate clothing, including closed-toe shoes
- Snack and water
- Prework

Prework

1. Make a timeline of the history of environmental science in America, identifying contributions made by the Boy Scouts of America to environmental science including dates, names of people or organizations and important events.

2. Do research on one species that was endangered or threatened and has recovered. Learn how the organism recovered and what its new status is. Write a 100-word report on the species, and discuss it with your counselor.

5. Pick a construction project for a park from the following list:

- a bridge across a stream
- a campfire site
- a new trail connecting two existing trails

Identify the items that would need to be included in an environmental impact statement for your planned project. Include ideas for evaluating sensitive plants and animals and discuss the impact on soil (erosion issues, compaction, grading, etc.) and how you would safely construct the project to be useful to all park patrons, including the physically-challenged. Does your project impact water quality, air, soil, water or noise pollution? How would you lessen these impacts?

6. Learn about three career opportunities in environmental science. Pick one and find out the education, training and experience required for this profession. Write a brief paragraph including this information and why this career would interest you.

Some options include:

Arborist

Invasive plant manager

Bioengineer

Environmental engineering

Oceanographer

Volcanologist

Natural Resource Manager

Invasive Pest Manager

Environmental Protection Specialist (EPA)

Soil Scientist/Conservationist

Biologist

Rangeland Management Specialist

Environmental Researcher

For questions, contact Cesia Lobo at cesia.lope@fairfaxcounty.gov or call (703) 941-1065.