

# Wilderness Survival Merit Badge

Hidden Oaks Nature Center

Wilderness Survival is a 5-hour class. Scouts should come dressed for the weather; much of this badge will be outside.

What to bring:

- Blue card, pen and pencil
- Appropriate clothing, including closed-toed shoes
- Snack and water
- Prework, including personal survival kit
- Bag or backpack for trail hike

**Prework Assignments:** Please complete these Merit Badge Requirements prior to class.

**2.** Memorize the list of seven priorities for survival in a backcountry or wilderness location. Be prepared to explain the importance of each one:

1. STOP
2. Provide first aid
3. Seek shelter
4. Build a fire
5. Signal for help
6. Drink water
7. Don't worry about food

**5.** Put together a personal survival kit. Bring the kit to class. Be prepared to explain how each item in it could be useful.

**8.** Improvise a natural shelter. For the purpose of this demonstration, use techniques that have little negative impact on the environment. Spend a night in your shelter.\*

\*We will practice various techniques for creating improvised structures during class. To obtain a signature for this requirement you must spend a night in your shelter prior to **or** after the program. Leave No Trace camping in a personal tent or hammock is acceptable so long as you build it/break it down yourself and leave no environmental footprint.

For questions, please contact Hidden Oaks Nature Center merit badge counselor Kelsey Jeffers at [Kelsey.Jeffers@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Kelsey.Jeffers@fairfaxcounty.gov) or call (703) 941-1065.