



## Communication Merit Badge at Riverbend Park

Welcome to the **Communication** Merit Badge program at Riverbend Park. The program may be held at either the Riverbend Visitor Center located at 8700 Potomac Hills Street in Great Falls, or the Riverbend Nature Center located at 8814 Jeffery Road. Please review your confirmation email or call the park at 703-759-9018 for location.

### **Important general Merit Badge information for parents:**

Be sure that you are familiar with the requirements for the merit badge your scout has selected. Some badges may take considerable time and planning to complete and may not be appropriate for younger scouts. Blue cards must be signed by your Troop Leader prior to attending the merit badge class. Park staff will not sign off on any blue cards missing this signature.

Most merit badges are not designed to be completed in a single session with an instructor, so it is not always possible to walk away with a completed and signed blue card at the end of a program. Every badge requires some independent work by your scout.

FCPA-Riverbend Park will provide staff, meeting BSA Youth Protection guidelines for male and female scouts, and supervision ratios. Parent/guardian **MUST** sign-in, and sign-out each participant(s) from the class. If you provided your own transportation, you may sign-in and sign-out yourself from the class. There is no fee if adults wish to stay during the class.

### **Below is the recommended homework to be completed before the program:**

There are some useful links at the end of some questions; however, scouts are encouraged to find their own sources (library, internet etc.).

Merit badge worksheets may be downloaded from [meritbadge.org](http://meritbadge.org) and brought to class. These worksheets help scouts organize their homework and classwork.

**3.** Write a five-minute speech. Give it at a meeting of a group.\*  
Provide a copy for your counselor to review.

**4.** Interview a person you know, like, or respect because of his or her position, talent, career, or life experiences. Listen actively and take notes.  
Use this information to prepare a formal introduction as if they were a guest speaker at an event. Highlight their experiences, education, and important qualities.

**5.** Attend a public meeting (city council, school board, debate) approved by your counselor where several points of view are given on a single issue.  
Practice active listening skills and take careful notes of each point of view.

Prepare an objective report that includes all points of view that were expressed.\*

**7. Do ONE of the following:**

**a.** Write to the editor of a magazine or your local newspaper to express your opinion or share information on any subject you choose. Send your message by fax, email or regular mail.

Provide a copy for your counselor to review.

**b.** Create a web page or blog of special interest to you (for instance, your troop or crew, a hobby, or a sport). Include at least three articles or entries and one photograph or illustration, and one link to some other Web page or blog that would be helpful to someone who visits the Web page or blog you have created. It is not necessary to post your Web page or blog to the Internet, but if you decide to do so, you must first share it with your parents and counselor and get their permission.

Provide a copy for your counselor to review.

**c.** Use desktop publishing to produce a newsletter, brochure, flier or other printed material for your scout troop, class at school, or other group. Include at least one article and one photograph or illustration.

Provide a copy for your counselor to review.

**8.** Plan a troop or crew court of honor, campfire program, or an interfaith worship service. Have the patrol leaders' council approve it, then write the script and prepare the program. Serve as master of ceremonies.

Provide a copy of the script and other evidence, such as photos or an outline, for your counselor to review.

\*Several other merit badges have requirements that can be counted for number 3. If your Scout has already completed the Weather merit badge (Requirement 10a), the Reptiles and Amphibians merit badge (Requirement 9c) or the Public Speaking merit badge (Requirements 1-4) they may use those requirements for number 3.

\*If your Scout has already attended a meeting for the Citizenship in the Community merit badge (Requirement 3) they may use that requirement for number 5.

**What to bring to the program:**

- Bring your completed homework. It is OK if you cannot complete the homework before class. You can bring completed homework in at a later date for sign-off.
- Come prepared to discuss and present your homework. As we move from one topic to the next during class, scouts will be asked to present homework elements completed. It will be more important to prove that you have understood a requirement orally rather than just presenting written information.
- Bring your blue card signed off by your Troop Leader. (Riverbend does not have blue cards.)
- Bring/wear weather appropriate clothing/outerwear. We will not go outdoors in heavy rain or thunderstorms. Boy Scout uniform not required.
- Bring a pencil and pen.
- Bring a flashlight, if the program is held after dusk.

- Download the merit badge worksheets from [meritbadge.com](http://meritbadge.com) and bring these worksheets to class.
- Bring a snack and drink. Bring more substantial food if your program is longer than four hours.

**Work completed after the program:**

During the program, the merit badge counselor will do a demonstration or explain the process for completing the final merit badge requirements. Your scout must provide evidence of completion in order to obtain blue card sign-off. Digital photographs of your scout doing the element and a picture of the completed requirement will be sufficient evidence, unless otherwise stated.

If your scout needs blue card sign-off after the class date, please call 703-759-9018 to arrange a time to meet with a merit badge counselor.

We're looking forward to working with your scout.

Briget McArdle  
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703-759-9018  
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Great Falls, VA 22066  
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/>