

## Photography Merit Badge Requirements

Please bring to class:

- **Pre-Work – listed in BOLD and red**
- Blue card
- Pen
- Snack/lunch and a drink
- Appropriate clothing to go outside to observe the weather

Important information about how to prepare for a merit badge program at Huntley Meadows Park.

Parents, please review the content of a merit badge prior to registering your scout: some badges may be challenging for younger scouts. Also, the class discussions are more interesting if scouts review *all* the requirements for the badge before the program. The chances of your scout completing all the work for the badge increases dramatically when he is properly motivated and the badge content is age-appropriate.

Merit badges are not designed to be completed in a day and require independent work on the part of the scout outside of the workshop. We call this PREWORK. We suggest this is done prior to the badge program date, but we realize this is not always practical or possible, in these cases we will sign partial cards and accept the assignments after the program.

Merit badge programs can be from 3 to 5 hours long, so be sure to pack a snack and water for your scout and that he is dressed appropriately for being outdoors for some or all of the program.

Though not required, Scout workbooks are very useful and we prefer that scouts use the workbook during the program. Workbooks can be found at:  
[http://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Merit\\_Badge\\_Worksheets](http://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Merit_Badge_Worksheets) .

About blue cards: WE DO NOT HAVE BLUE CARDS. Please bring an *authorized* blue card with you to the program. Your troop scout master should be consulted prior to attending any merit badge program and he or she will sign the front of the card.

### 1. Safety. Do the following:

- (a) Show your counselor your current Cyber Chip.
- (b) Explain to your counselor the most likely hazards you may encounter while working with photography and what you should do to anticipate, mitigate, prevent, and respond to these hazards. Explain how you would prepare for exposure to environmental situations such as weather, sun, and water.

**2. Explain how the following elements and terms can affect the quality of a picture:**

- (a) Light - natural light (ambient/existing), low light (such as at night), and artificial light (such as from a flash)
- (b) Exposure -- aperture (f-stops), shutter speed, ISO
- (c) Depth of field
- (d) Composition - rule of thirds, leading lines, framing, depth
- (e) Angle of view
- (f) Stop action and blur motion
- (g) Decisive moment (action or expression captured by the photographer)

**3. Explain the basic parts and operation of a camera. Explain how an exposure is made when you take a picture.**

**4. Do TWO of the following, then share your work with your counselor.**

- (a) Photograph one subject from two different angles or perspectives.
- (b) Photograph one subject from two different light sources - artificial and natural.
- (c) Photograph one subject with two different depth of fields.
- (d) Photograph one subject with two different compositional techniques.

**5. Photograph THREE of the following, then share your work with your counselor.**

- (a) Close-up of a person
- (b) Two to three people interacting
- (c) Action shot
- (d) Animal shot
- (e) Nature shot
- (f) Picture of a person - candid, posed, or camera aware

**6. Describe how software allows you to enhance your photograph after it is taken. Select a photo you have taken, then do ONE of the following, and share what you have done with your counselor.**

- (a) Crop your photograph
- (b) Adjust the exposure or make a color correction
- (c) Show another way you could improve your picture for impact.

**7. Using images other than those created for requirements 4, 5, and 6, produce a visual story to document an event to photograph OR choose a topic that interests you to photograph. Do the following:**

- (a) Plan the images you need to photograph for your photo story.
- (b) Share your plan with your counselor, and get your counselor's input and approval before you proceed.
- (c) Select eight to 12 images that best tell your story. Arrange your images in order and mount the prints on a poster board, OR create an electronic presentation. Share your visual story with your counselor.

**8. Identify three career opportunities in photography. Pick one and explain to your counselor how to prepare for such a career. Discuss what education and training are required, and why this profession might interest you.**

**Huntley Meadows Park**

Fairfax County Park Authority

Melodie Stehling

[melodie.stehling@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:melodie.stehling@fairfaxcounty.gov)

Phone: 703-768-2525