



Indian Lore Merit Badge at Riverbend Park

Welcome to the Indian Lore 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 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.

FCCA-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.

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.

Please download the merit badge worksheets from meritbadge.org and bring these worksheets to class. We will go over all of the merit badge requirements during class, but it is helpful if the scout has reviewed the worksheets ahead of time.

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.). Please note that internet links change often and the recommended links may not work.

2. Give the history of one American Indian tribe, group or nation that lives or has lived near you. Visit it, if possible. Tell about traditional dwellings, way of life, tribal government, religious beliefs, family and clan relationships, language, clothing styles, arts and crafts, food preparation, means of getting around, games, customs in warfare, where members of the group now live, and how they live.
- 5a. Write or briefly describe how life would have been different for the European settlers if there had been no native Americans to meet them when they came to this continent.

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 later 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.
- 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 and bring these worksheets to class.
- Bring a snack and drink or money to purchase some at the visitor center. Bring lunch if the program is scheduled over lunch hour.

Work completed after the program:

During the program, the merit badge counselor will explain the process for completing the final merit badge requirements, if any. 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.

Riverbend Park

703-759-9018

8700 Potomac Hills Street

Great Falls, VA 22066

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/>