

FORESTRY MERIT BADGE

Requirements and Prework/Homework

The Forestry Merit Badge at Cub Run RECenter takes approximately 4 hours of class/field time. Other work will need to be done at home before the merit badge class.

Below, is a list of the requirements that we will do at Cub Run – I have only included the options that will be completed during the program. ** Denotes prework/homework (#7 on careers).

Please bring the following:

- Clipboard for taking notes outside
- (optional) tree Identification book (we will have some to borrow).
- Blue card, pen and pencil
- Snack and water bottle
- All prework/homework
- **ARRIVE ON TIME – EARLY IS BETTER! PLAN TO ARRIVE 10 MINUTES EARLY. DO NOT BE LATE.**

Forestry Requirements

1. Prepare a field notebook, make a collection, and identify 15 species of trees, wild shrubs, or vines in a local forested area. Write a description in which you identify and discuss the following:
 - a. The characteristics of leaf, twig, cone, or fruiting bodies
 - b. The habitat in which these trees, shrubs or vines are found.
 - c. The important ways each tree, shrub, or vine is used by humans or wildlife and whether the species is native or was introduced to the area. If it is not native, explain whether it is considered invasive or potentially invasive.

2. Do ONE of the following:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c. Find and examine two types of animal, insect, or damage on trees. In the field notebook you prepared for requirement 1, identify the damage, explain how the damage was caused, and describe the effects of the damage on the trees. Photograph or sketch each example.

3. Do the following:
 - a. Describe contributions forests make to:
 1. Our economy in the form of products.
 2. Our social well-being, including recreation
 3. Soil protection and increased fertility.
 4. Clean water.
 5. Clean air. (carbon cycling, sequestration)
 6. Wildlife habitat
 7. Fisheries habitat
 8. Threatened and endangered species of plants and animals
 - b. Tell which watershed or other source your community relies on for its water supply.
4. Describe what forest management means, including the following:
 - a. Multiple-use management
 - b. Sustainable forest management
 - c. Even-aged and uneven-aged management and silvicultural systems associated with each type.
 - d. Intermediate cuttings.
 - e. The role of prescribed burning and related forest management practices.
5. With your parent's and counselor's approval, do ONE of the following:
 - a. Visit a managed public or private forest area with its manager or a forester familiar with it. Write a brief report describing the type of forest, the management objectives, and the forestry techniques used to achieve the objectives.
6. Do the following:
 - a. Describe the consequences to forests that result from FIVE of the following elements: wildfire, absence of fire, insects, tree diseases, air pollution, overgrazing, deer or other wildlife overpopulation, improper harvest, and urbanization.
 - b. Explain what can be done to reduce the consequences you discussed in 6a.
 - c. Describe what you should do if you discover a forest fire and how a professional firefighting crew might control it. Name your state or local wildfire control agency.
- 7. ** Visit one or more local foresters and write a brief report about the person (or persons). Or, write about a forester's occupation including the education, qualifications, career opportunities, and duties related to forestry.**