

Burke Lake Park Scout Merit Badge Pre-work

Directions for all Merit Badges

Hello, thanks for signing up for our merit badge program. Please arrive at 9 am at **shelter C** at Burke Lake Park. Merit badges are also supposed to be done with the buddy system. We highly recommend that you attend the program with your scout especially if he does not have a buddy; the chances of your scout completing all the work for the badge, during the allotted time, increases dramatically when he is properly motivated. There is never a fee for adults and you are sure to learn something. Also our policy is that the program will not proceed if there are not 2 or more adults present for the program especially those containing hikes. So prepare for the possibility that you may have to stay for the program and not just drop off your scout. This will allow the instructor to concentrate more fully on the difficult task of imparting all the required information and assisting the boys individually if necessary, while other adults keep the atmosphere calm and productive. This program is 4 hours long 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 time. We will be doing a lot of hiking looking for signs of mammals.

Mammal Merit Badge

The only pre work requirement:

3.

c. From study and reading write a simple life history of one nongame mammal that lives in your area. Tell how this mammal lived before its habitat was affected in anyway by man. Tell how it reproduces, what it eats, and its natural habitat. Describe its dependency upon plants, upon other animals (including man), and how they depend upon it. Tell how it is helpful or harmful to man.

Reptile and Amphibian Badge

The only pre work requirement:

Requirement #8. We suggest 8B.

Choose a reptile or amphibian that you can observe at a local zoo, aquarium, nature center, or other such exhibit (such as your classroom or school). Study the specimen weekly for a period of three months. At each visit, sketch the specimen in its captive habitat and note any changes in its coloration, shedding of skins, and general habits and behavior. Find out, either from information you locate on your own or by talking to the caretaker, what this species eats and what are its native habitat and home range, preferred climate, average life expectancy, and natural predators. Also identify any human caused threats to its population and any laws that protect the species and its habitat. After the observation period, share what you have learned with your counselor.

Requirement #9A: We will review frog calls during the program, but you have to complete the evening observation on your own and tell us about your experience.

To assist with Requirement 9B we suggest you look through the Virginia Herpetological Society website (or a field guide or other source) to familiarize yourself with local reptiles and amphibians

Fish and Wildlife Merit Badge

The only pre work requirement:

PRE-WORK: · You must, either before or after the program, complete Requirement #5. We suggest 5C or 5D as projects that are within easy reach of most scouts.

5. Do ONE of the following:

C. Design and implement a backyard wildlife habitat improvement project and report the results.

D. Design and construct a wildlife blind near a game trail, water hole, salt lick, bird feeder, or birdbath and take good photographs or make sketches from the blind of any combination of 10 wild birds, mammals, reptiles, or amphibians.

We will attempt to complete Requirement #6A during the program. However, if we cannot meet that requirement you can complete #6B as an alternative. Any work you do on completing either of these options before the program will bring you that much closer to completing the badge.

Fishing Merit Badge

The only pre work for the badge is as follows.

Demonstrate how to tie the following Knots: improved clinch, Palomar, Turle, blood loop (barrel knot), and double surgeon' loop. Explain how and when each knot is used.

Part of Requirement #9. Acquire a fish and cook it. We will, with fishermen's skill & some luck, catch & release a fish, but the program does not include cooking. Cook a fish at home and bring us a photo.

Nature Study Merit Badge

We will be fulfilling many of the requirements that say collect with observe.

The only pre work for the badge is as follows:

4. a. Birds

2. Make and set out a bird house or a feeding station or a birdbath. List what birds used it during a period of one month.

b. Mammals

2. Make a plaster cast of the tracks of a wild animal. We will look for mammal tracks in the mud however.

d. Insects and spiders

We cannot legally in the park kill or collect insects. We suggest you fulfill this in your yard.

e. Fish

We will observe 2 species of fish and talk about each species.

f. Mollusks and Crustaceans

1. Identify five species of Mollusks and crustaceans. Should be done in salt water.

2. Collect, mount, and label six shells.