

## Hidden Oaks Nature Center Reptile and Amphibian Study Merit Badge

### Pre-work

1. Should you decide to raise a reptile or amphibian for 30 days and wish to have a tadpole (available seasonally), contact Suzanne Holland at [Suzanne.holland@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Suzanne.holland@fairfaxcounty.gov) to arrange to pick one up plus the care directions and thirty day tracking form. The tadpole must be released back into the pond at Hidden Oaks at the end of the 30 days.
2. Bring a digital camera for requirement #1
3. Bring a list of four reptiles or amphibians which are officially protected by either the federal government or by Virginia and write down why each is protected. (Portion of requirement #4.)
4. Write a detailed description of six venomous snakes and one venomous lizard found in the United States describing their habits and geographical range. (Portion of requirement #7.)
5. Bring a small snack to class (no red juices or liquids please)
6. Visit a pond or stream to stalk frogs by flashlight and be able to describe where (in the water, edge, trees, etc.) you heard them.

The merit badge will cover the following in class:

Requirement 1,2,3a-e, 4,5,6,7, 9a,b, 10

The final requirement #8 is the choice of the scout. He may either maintain one or more reptiles or amphibians for at least a month or he may observe a reptile or amphibian at the nature center weekly for a period of three months. Once this activity is complete, the merit badge counselor will sign off on the badge.

Please have your scout bring his blue merit badge card.