

Important information for parents about how to prepare your scout for any merit badge program at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park!



Please bring your blue card we do not have blue cards!

Be sure that you are familiar with the requirements for the merit badge your scout has selected. Some badges can be very demanding and may take considerable time and planning to complete. Some badges are not appropriate for younger scouts.

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. Most badges require some independent or “pre-work” by your scout, if these requirements are performed prior to our program, we can complete and sign the merit badge card. If pre-work is not completed, counselors can review assignments on an individual basis, at a later date from the scheduled program. Please note you will have to contact and schedule an appointment with an appropriate staff member to do this. Not all staff members are qualified for all badges.

Please prepare for the possibility that you may have to stay for the program and not just drop off your scout. We encourage that one or more adults remain. There is no fee for adults, and you are sure to learn something. It is also in keeping with the scouting guidelines for youth protection.

What to bring.

Dress for the weather rain or shine and wear comfortable walking shoes.

Snacks or lunch and drinking water.

Blue card for counselor signature.

Copy of merit badge workbook, copies can be found online.

Binoculars if you have them, they are not mandatory.

Thank you! And best wishes for success to your scout.

Bird Study Merit Badge

BE PREPARED: **The Bird Study Merit Badge** session is four hours long and covers a lot of material and a lot of ground: we will be doing a good bit of walking. Please bring water and snacks to keep up your energy. Dress for the weather. Wear hiking boots or a similar shoe that will support your feet and you don't mind getting muddy.

The following is pre-work that needs to be completed by the scout who is registered for the program prior to the scheduled merit badge class at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park.

9. Do ONE of the following:

- a. Build a bird feeder and put it in an appropriate place in your yard or another location.
- b. Build a bird bath and put it in an appropriate place.
- c. Build a backyard sanctuary for birds by planting trees and shrubs for food and cover.

For the option you choose, describe what birds you hope to attract, and why.

11. Identify three career opportunities connected to the study of birds. Pick one and find out the education, training, and experience required for this profession. Discuss with your counselor if this profession might interest you.

If you have any questions, you can e-mail the Merit Badge counselor at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park: Lara.Dolata@Fairfaxcounty.gov