



## Camping Merit Badge at Riverbend Park

Welcome to the Camping 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 may 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.

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.

FCPA-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.

### **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.).

Merit badge worksheets may be downloaded from [meritbadge.org](http://meritbadge.org) and brought to class. These worksheets help scouts organize their homework and classwork.

#### Requirement 3:

Make a written plan\* for an overnight trek and show how to get to your camping spot by using a topographical map and one of the following:

- (a) A compass
- (b) A GPS receiver\*\*
- (c) A smartphone with a GPS app\*

#### Requirement 4, B:

Help a Scout patrol or a Webelos Scout unit in your area prepare for an actual campout, including creating the duty roster, menu planning, equipment needs, general planning, and setting up camp

#### Requirement 5, E:

Present yourself to your Scoutmaster with your pack for inspection. Be correctly clothed and equipped for an overnight campout. **Bring a bag packed appropriately for an overnight campout.**

#### Requirement 7 B:

Prepare for an overnight campout with your patrol by doing the following:

(b) Pack your own gear and your share of the patrol equipment and food for proper carrying. Show that your pack is right for quickly getting what is needed first, and that it has been assembled properly for comfort, weight, balance, size, and neatness. **Bring a bag packed appropriately for an overnight campout.**

Requirement 9, A, B, and C: **(Until March 1, 2022 The requirements for 9, B are temporarily suspended due to Covid-19. After March 1, 2022 the requirement for 9, B will be reinstated).** **Bring your scout log book with the logged nights camping, photo evidence of your two camping experiences (only after March 1, 2022) and photos of your conservation project. Please be prepared to talk about what accomplished and learned in doing your conservation project.**

Show experience in camping by doing the following:

(a) Camp a total of at least 20 nights at designated Scouting activities or events. One long-term camping experience of up to six consecutive nights may be applied toward this requirement. Sleep each night under the sky or in a tent you have pitched. If the camp provides a tent that has already been pitched, you need not pitch your own tent.

(b) On any of these camping experiences, you must do TWO of the following, only with proper preparation and under qualified supervision.

- (1) Hike up a mountain, gaining at least 1,000 vertical feet.
- (2) Backpack, snowshoe, or cross-country ski for at least 4 miles.
- (3) Take a bike trip of at least 15 miles or at least four hours.
- (4) Take a nonmotorized trip on the water of at least four hours or 5 miles.
- (5) Plan and carry out an overnight snow camping experience.
- (6) Rappel down a rappel route of 30 feet or more.

(c) Perform a conservation project approved by the landowner or land managing agency. This can be done alone or with others.

#### 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 at a later date 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. It will be more important to prove that you have understood a requirement orally rather than just presenting written information.

- Bring your blue card signed off by your Troop Leader. (Riverbend does not have blue cards.)
- **Bring a bag packed appropriately for an overnight campout.**
- 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](http://meritbadge.com) and bring these worksheets to class.
- Bring a snack and drink. Bring more substantial food if your program is longer than four hours.

**Work completed after the program:**

During the program, the merit badge counselor will do a demonstration or explain the process for completing the final merit badge requirements. 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/>