



## Bird Study Merit Badge at Riverbend Park

Welcome to the Bird Study 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:**

Please download the merit badge worksheets from [meritbadge.org](http://meritbadge.org) and bring these worksheets to class. These worksheets help scouts organize their homework and classwork. We will go over all of the merit badge requirements during class but it is helpful if the scout has reviewed the worksheet ahead of time.

2. Show that you are familiar with the terms used to describe birds by sketching or tracing a perched bird and then labeling 15 different parts of the bird. Sketch or trace an extended wing and label six types of wing feathers.

8. Do ONE of the following. For the option you choose, describe what birds you hope to attract, and why.

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

### **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.
- Bring your blue card. (Riverbend does not have blue cards)
- 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.
- 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/>