



Photography Merit Badge at Lake Fairfax Park

Welcome to the Photography Merit Badge program at Lake Fairfax Park. The program is held at the Lake Fairfax Main Office located at 1400 Lake Fairfax Drive in Reston unless otherwise indicated by park staff.

Important Merit Badge information for parents:

- Please be familiar with the requirements of the program your scout has selected. Some badges take considerable time and planning to complete. Some badges may not be appropriate for younger scouts.
- Blue cards must be signed by the troop leader before attending the merit badge program. Lake Fairfax Park does not have blue cards.
- Most merit badges are not designed to be completed in a single session. Every badge requires some independent work by your scout. All requirements, including prework, the program, and postwork, must be completed before park staff can sign the merit badge card. Note: Not all badges will have postwork.
- Please be prepared 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. 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. Additionally, adults may help keep the atmosphere calm and productive. It is also in keeping with the scouting guidelines for youth protection.

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 by your scout master. (Lake Fairfax does not have blue cards.)
- Please wear comfortable and appropriate clothing. Uniforms are not required.
- Bring a pencil and pen.
- Bring a snack and drink.
- Bring camera and accessories if you have them.

We recommend that you download the merit badge worksheets from meritbadge.org and bring these worksheets to class. These worksheets help scouts organize their homework and classwork.

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 below.

If your scout has a strong understanding of the requirement, he is welcome to complete this requirement at any time. Remember to document work and completion via digital pictures.

ALL OF THESE REQUIREMENTS WILL BE REVIEWED AND ASSESSED DURING THE COURSE

Requirements to be demonstrated, practiced and assessed during the class:

We will be reviewing recommended homework to ensure a thorough understanding and will also be covering the following requirements during the class:

- 1) Do the following:
 - a) Discuss the most likely hazards you may encounter while working with photography and what you should do to anticipate, mitigate, prevent, and respond to these hazards. Explain how you would prepare for exposure to environmental situations such as weather, sun, and water.
 - b) Show that you have a current, up-to-date cyber chip/memory card.
- 2) Describe how the following elements and terms can affect the quality of a picture.

<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) Light – natural light (ambient/existing), low light (such as night), and artificial light (such as from a flash)b) Exposure – aperture (f-stops), shutter speed, ISOc) Depth of field	<ol style="list-style-type: none">d) Composition – rule of thirds, leading lines, framing, depthe) Angle of viewf) Stop action and blur motiong) Decisive moment (action or expression captured by the photographer)
--	---
- 3) Show that you know the basic parts and operation of a camera. Explain how an exposure is made when you take a picture.
- 4) Do TWO of the following:
 - a) Photograph one subject from two different angles or perspectives.
 - b) Photograph one subject from two different light sources – artificial and natural.
 - c) Photograph one subject from two different depths of fields.
 - d) Photograph one subject from two different compositional techniques.

- 5) Do THREE of the following:
- a) Close-up of a person
 - b) Two to three people interacting
 - c) Action shot
 - d) Animal shot
 - e) Nature shot
 - f) Picture of a person – candid, posed, or camera aware
- 6) Describe how software allows you to enhance your photograph after it is taken.
- 7) Using images other than those created for requirements 4, 5 or 6, produce a visual story to document an event to photograph OR choose a topic that interests you to photograph. Then do the following
- a) Plan the images you need to photograph for your photo story.
 - b) Discuss your plan with your counselor, and get your counselor's input and approval before you proceed.
- 8) Show that you have found three career opportunities in photography. Pick one and find out how to prepare for such a career. Then discuss what education and training is required, and why this profession might interest you.

Homework to complete after the class:

- 6) Select a photo you have taken, then do ONE of the following
- a) Crop your photograph.
 - b) Adjust the exposure or make color correction.
 - c) Show another way to improve your picture for impact.
- 7) Do the following:
- c) Select eight to 12 images that best tell your story. Arrange your images in order and mount the prints on a poster board, OR create an electronic presentation. Share your visual story.

Work completed after the program:

Once the prework, class work and postwork are completed, all elements of the merit badge will be complete.

If your scout needs a blue card sign-off after the class date, please call 703-471-5415 ex.15 to arrange a time to meet with a merit badge counselor.

We're looking forward to working with your scout.

Lake Fairfax Park
703-471-5414x0
1400 Lake Fairfax Drive
Reston, VA 20190
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lakefairfax