



## **Fishing Merit Badge at Lake Fairfax Park**

Welcome to the Fishing Merit Badge program at Lake Fairfax Park. The program is held at the 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:**

- Merit Badge worksheet packet
- Pencil and pen
- 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.)
- Sunscreen, hat, and sunglasses

- Synthetic clothing, quick drying clothing
- Bring/wear weather appropriate clothing/outerwear. We will not go outdoors in heavy rain or thunderstorms.
- Dry clothing to change into after class
- Teva, Chaco, or Keen style sandals or old tennis shoes (NO FLIP FLOPS)
- Bring a flashlight, if the program is held after dusk.
- Snack and drink

**Below is the recommended homework to be completed before the program:**

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.

- 1) Do the following:
  - a) Explain to your counselor the most likely hazards you may encounter while participating in fishing activities, and what you should do to anticipate, help prevent, mitigate, and respond to these hazards.
  - b) Discuss the prevention of and treatment for the following health concerns that could occur while fishing, including cuts and scratches, puncture wounds, insect bites, hypothermia, dehydration, heat exhaustion, heatstroke, and sunburn.
  - c) Explain how to remove a hook that has lodged in your arm.
  - d) Name and explain five safety practices you should always follow while fishing.
- 6) Do the following:
  - a) Explain the importance of practicing Leave No Trace techniques. Discuss the positive effects of Leave No Trace on fishing resources.
  - b) Discuss the meaning and importance of catch and release. Describe how to properly release a fish safely to the water.
- 7) Obtain and review the regulations affecting game fishing where you live. Explain why they were adopted and what you accomplish by following them.
- 8) Explain what good outdoor sportsmanlike behavior is and how it relates to anglers. Tell how the Outdoor Code of the Boy Scouts of America relates to a fishing sports enthusiast, including the aspects of littering, trespassing, courteous behavior, and obeying fishing regulations.
- 9) Catch at least one fish and identify it. If regulations and health concerns permit, clean and cook a fish you have caught. Otherwise, acquire a fish and cook it. *\*\*\*Please provide photographic or video evidence of cleaning and cooking. We are unable to complete this element of the badge due to insufficient cooking facilities\*\*\**

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

- 2) Discuss the differences between two types of fishing outfits. Point out and identify the parts of several types of rods and reels. Explain how and when each would be used. Review with your counselor how to care for this equipment.
- 3) Demonstrate the proper use of two different types of fishing equipment.
- 4) Demonstrate how to tie the following knots: improved clinch, Palomar, turtle, blood loop (barrel knot), and double surgeon's loop. Explain how and when each knot is used.
- 5) Name and identify five basic artificial lures and five natural baits and explain how to fish with them. Explain why bait fish are not to be released.
- 9) Catch at least one fish and identify it.

\*\*\*\*\* We will be fishing during the class, all equipment provided by Lake Fairfax \*\*\*\*\*

**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 blue card sign-off after the class date, please call 703-471-5414 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  
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Reston, VA 20190  
[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lakefairfax](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lakefairfax)