

Exploration Merit Badge

Hidden Oaks Nature Center

The Exploration merit badge is a four-hour session. Scouts should bring a snack and plenty of water. Please, no red liquids.

What to bring:

- Blue card, pen and pencil
- Appropriate clothing, including closed-toe shoes
- Snack and water
- Prework

Prework

4. Do ONE of the following:

- a. Learn about a living explorer. Create a short report or presentation (verbal, written, or multimedia slide presentation) on this individual's objectives and the achievements of one of the explorer's expeditions. Share what you have learned with your counselor and unit.
- b. Learn about an actual scientific exploration expedition. Gather information about the mission objectives and the expedition's most interesting or important discoveries. Share what you have learned with your counselor and unit. Tell how the information gained from this expedition helped scientists answer important questions.
- c. Learn about types of exploration that may take place in a laboratory or scientific research facility (medicine, biology, chemistry, physics, astronomy, etc.). Explain to your counselor how laboratory research and exploration are similar to field research and exploration.

5. Do ONE of the following, and share what you learn with your counselor:

- a. With your parent's permission and counselor's approval, visit either in person or via the internet an exploration sponsoring organization (such as The Explorers Club, National Geographic Society, Smithsonian Institution, Alpine Club, World Wildlife Fund, or similar

organization). Find out what type(s) of exploration the organization supports.

- b. With permission and approval, visit either in person or via the internet a science lab, astronomical observatory, medical research facility, or similar site. Learn what exploration is done in this facility.

9. Identify three career opportunities in exploration. Pick one and explain to your counselor how to prepare for such a career. Discuss the education and training that are required and why this profession might interest you.

After the Badge*

8c. After you return, compile a report on the results of your expedition and how you accomplished your objective(s). Include a statement of the objectives, note your findings and observations, include photos, note any discoveries, report any problems or adverse events, and have a conclusion (whether you reached your objective or not). The post-expedition report must be at least one page and no more than three; one page can be photos, graphs, or figures.

* This requirement will be signed off in class with the understanding that the scout will type up and send their report to the merit badge counselor after the class session. Scouts will be expected to be honest and trustworthy in their completion of the merit badge.

For help or questions, contact Cesia Lobo at Cesia.Lobo@fairfaxcounty.gov or at (703) 941-1065.