

## **Forestry Merit program @ Huntley Meadows Park**

**Important information about how to prepare for a merit badge program at Huntley Meadows Park.**

Merit badges are also supposed to be done with the buddy system. *We highly recommend that you attend the program with your scout especially if he does not have a buddy*; the chances of your scout completing all the work for the badge, during the allotted time, increases dramatically when he is properly motivated. There is never a fee for adults and you are sure to learn something. Also our policy is that the program will not proceed if there are not 2 or more adults present for the program especially those containing hikes. We will attempt to enlist adult volunteers from our center but this is not always possible so *prepare for the possibility that you may have to stay for the program and not just drop off your scout*. 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, while other adults keep the atmosphere calm and productive.

These programs are 3-5 hours long be sure to pack a snack and water for your scout and that he is dressed appropriately for being outdoors for some or all of the program time. Merit Badges are in general not designed to be completed in an afternoon therefore in order to complete the badge there is some work the scouts need to do outside of the workshop. We call this prework. We suggest this is done prior to the badge program date but we realize this is not always practical or possible, in these cases we will if requested sign partial cards and accept the assignments after the program or ask that you bring/send back all the work and the card in order to sign off on the blue card all at once.

The following is what we will be doing during the forestry badge if it is in **RED** it is prework!

**Prepare a field notebook, make a collection, and identify 15 species of trees, wild shrubs, or vines in a local forested area. Write a description in which you identify and discuss the following:**

- a. The characteristics of leaf, twig, cone, or fruiting bodies
- b. The habitat in which these trees, shrubs or vines are found.
- c. The important ways each tree, shrub, or vine is used by humans or wildlife and whether the species is native or was introduced to the area. If it is not native, explain whether it is considered invasive or potentially invasive.

**2.**

- c. Find and examine two types of animal, insect, or damage on trees. In the field notebook you prepared for requirement 1, identify the damage, explain how the damage was caused, and describe the effects of the damage on the trees. Photograph or sketch each example.

**3. Do the following:**

- a. Describe contributions forests make to:
  1. Our economy in the form of products.
  2. Our social well-being, including recreation
  3. Soil protection and increased fertility.
  4. Clean water.
  5. Clean air. (carbon cycling, sequestration)
  6. Wildlife habitat
  7. Fisheries habitat
  8. Threatened and endangered species of plants and animals
- b. Tell which watershed or other source your community relies on for its water supply.

4. Describe what forest management means, including the following:
  - a. Multiple-use management
  - b. Sustainable forest management
  - c. Even-aged and uneven-aged management and silvicultural systems associated with each type.
  - d. Intermediate cuttings.
  - e. The role of prescribed burning and related forest management practices.
5. With your parent's and counselor's approval, do ONE of the following:
  - a. Visit a managed public or private forest area with its manager or a forester familiar with it. Write a brief report describing the type of forest, the management objectives, and the forestry techniques used to achieve the objectives.
6. Do the following:
  - a. Describe the consequences to forests that result from FIVE of the following elements: wildfire, absence of fire, insects, tree diseases, air pollution, overgrazing, deer or other wildlife overpopulation, improper harvest, and urbanization.  
☐ Wildfire:  
☐ Absence of fire:  
☐ Insects:  
☐ Tree diseases:  
☐ Air pollution:  
☐ Overgrazing:  
☐ Deer or other wildlife overpopulation:  
☐ Improper harvest:  
☐ Urbanization:
  - b. Explain what can be done to reduce the consequences you discussed in 6a.
  - c. Describe what you should do if you discover a forest fire and how a professional firefighting crew might control it.  
  
What to do:  
  
How a professional firefighting crew might control it.  
  
Name your state or local wildfire control agency.
7. Visit one or more local foresters and write a brief report about the person (or persons). Or, write about a forester's occupation including the education, qualifications, career opportunities, and duties related to forestry.