

Historic Huntley | Huntley Meadows Park

Genealogy

- This program lasts 3 hours.
- In class covers requirements 1, 4a, 4c, 6, 8, 9 .
- Pework covers requirements 4b, 5, & 7.
- Please bring your **authorized blue card**, snack, drink, and merit badge workbook.

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

Parents, please review the content of a merit badge prior to registering your scout: some badges may be challenging for younger scouts. Also, the class discussions are more interesting if scouts review *all* the requirements for the badge before the program. The chances of your scout completing all the work for the badge increases dramatically when he is properly motivated and the badge content is age-appropriate.

Merit badges are not designed to be completed in a day and require independent work on the part of the scout 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 sign partial cards and accept the assignments after the program.

Also, our policy, in compliance with scouting policies, is that the program should have 2 or more adults present. *Please consider attending the program with your scout.* There is never a fee for adults and you are sure to learn something. Also, the instructor will be able to concentrate more fully on the task of imparting all the required information and assisting the boys individually if necessary, while other adults keep the atmosphere calm and productive.

Merit badge programs can be from 3 to 5 hours long, so 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.

Though not required, Scout workbooks are very useful and we prefer that scouts use the workbook during the program. Workbooks can be found at: http://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Merit_Badge_Worksheets .

About blue cards: WE DO NOT HAVE BLUE CARDS. Please bring an *authorized* blue card with you to the program. Your troop scout master should be consulted prior to attending any merit badge program and he or she will sign the front of the card. When the badge is completed the unit leader will again sign the applicant's record portion of the card.

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

Requirements

1. Explain to your counselor what the words genealogy, ancestor, and descendant mean.
2. Do ONE of the following:
 - a. Create a time line for yourself or for a relative. Then write a short biography based on that time line.
 - b. Keep a journal for six weeks. You must write in it at least once a week.
3. **With your parent's help, choose a relative or a family acquaintance you can interview in person, by telephone, or by email or letter. Record the information you collect so you do not forget it. See below for some suggested questions.**

FOR REQUIREMENTS 4 & 5: Fairfax County residents can go to the local library or to the Virginia Room to fulfill both 4b and 5e, if you would like. Local libraries have Ancestry.com available, a popular database that includes US

Census and other records. In addition to this online resource, the Virginia Room has a wealth of genealogical books. Libraries in Prince William and Loudoun Counties have similar special collections and may also have Ancestry.com.

4. Do the following:
 - a. Name three types of genealogical resources and explain how these resources can help you chart your family tree.
 - b. Obtain at least one genealogical document that supports an event that is or can be recorded on your pedigree chart or family group record. The document could be found at home or at a government office, religious organization, archive, or library. **Be sure to bring this document with you to use to complete requirements 4c and 6.**
 - c. Tell how you would evaluate the genealogical information you found for requirement 4b.
5. Contact ONE of the following individuals or institutions. Ask what genealogical services, records, or activities this individual or institution provides, and report the results:
 - a. A genealogical or lineage society. *Examples of these societies include: Daughters of the American Revolution, Sons of the American Revolution, Sons of the Revolution, the National Society of the Colonial Dames of America, Society of the Cincinnati, and the Mayflower Society.*
 - b. A professional genealogist (someone who gets paid for doing genealogical research)
 - c. **A surname organization, such as your family's organization**
 - d. A genealogical educational facility or institution
 - e. A genealogical record repository of any type (courthouse, genealogical library, state or national archive, state library, etc.) *The Virginia Room of the Fairfax County Library; the Fairfax County Courthouse Archives; the Virginia Historical Society, and the Library of Virginia, the DC Public Library, Maryland State Archives, the Maryland Historical Society, and the Library of Congress all have excellent genealogical collections, as do Loudon County and Prince William Libraries and courthouses.*
6. Begin your family tree by listing yourself and include at least two additional generations. You may complete this requirement by using the chart provided in this pamphlet or the genealogy software program of your choice.
7. Complete a family group record form, listing yourself and your brothers and sisters as the children. On another family group record form, show one of your parents and his or her brothers and sisters as the children. This requirement may be completed using the chart provided or the genealogy software program of your choice.
8. Do the following:
 - a. Explain the effect computers and the Internet are having on the world of genealogy.
 - b. Explain how photography (including microfilming) has influenced genealogy.
9. Discuss what you have learned about your family and your family members through your genealogical research.

SAMPLE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Because every individual is unique and every interviewer has his or her own special interests and research goals, there is no single set of questions that will fit every situation. The following are some that might help guide an interview with a relative or community member about family folklore.

Pick and choose among the questions to suit your own interests. Select about 5 questions to start with. You can always ask more, but you'll find that most people enjoy sharing their stories with you and the interview can quickly get quite long. Feel free to change the wording as you see fit or ask completely different questions. Ultimately, the most useful

questions will be those that you develop yourself based on your knowledge of your own family and/or community. Be flexible and have fun!

Biographical Questions

What is your name?

Where and when were you born?

Where did you grow up?

Where have you lived?

What jobs have you had?

What do you do for a living now?

What are some of your childhood memories?

What games did you play when you were a child?

Did you sing verses when you played games?

What were they?

What kinds of toys did you play with?

Family Folklore

Do you know any stories about how your family (you) first came to the United States?

Where did they first settle? Why?

How did they make a living?

Did your family stay in one place or move around?

How did they come to live in this area?

What traditions or customs have you made an effort to preserve? Why?

Are there traditions that you have given up or changed? Why?

How did your parents, grandparents, and other relatives come to meet and marry?

How are holidays traditionally celebrated in your family?