

Photography Merit Badge Pre-Work

Huntley Meadows Park

Welcome to the Photography Merit Badge program at Huntley Meadows Park. The program is held at the Norma Hoffman Visitor Center located at 3701 Lockheed Blvd. Alexandria, VA, unless otherwise indicated by park staff.

Important Merit Badge Information for Parents:

Be sure that you are familiar with the requirements for the merit badge your scout has selected. Some badges may take considerable time and planning to complete and may not be appropriate for younger scouts. Blue cards must be signed by your scout master prior to attending the merit badge class. Park staff will not sign off on any blue cards missing this signature. We do not have extra blue cards to hand out.

Most merit badges are not designed to be completed in a single session with an instructor, so it is not always possible to walk away with a completed and signed blue card at the end of a program. Every badge requires some independent work by your scout.

Be sure your scout is dressed appropriately for being outdoors for some or all the program time. Scouts must be accompanied to be signed in/signed out.

Please bring the following:

- **Pen/Pencil**
- **Blue card signed by scout master. (We do not provide blue cards)**
- **Snack and Water**
- **Pre-work**
- **Camera (that you are familiar with)**
- **Appropriate clothing for spending time outdoors**

Pre-Work: Requirement #8: Identify three career opportunities in photography. Pick one and explain to your counselor how to prepare for such a career. Discuss what education and training are required, and why this profession might interest you.

Post-Work: Requirement #7: which is a culmination of what you learned in class, due 1 month after class date.

In-Class

1. Safety. Do the following:
 - a. **Show your counselor your current Cyber Chip.**
 - b. Explain to your counselor 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
2. Explain how the following elements and terms affect the quality of a picture:
 - a. Light—natural light/ambient, flash
 - b. Exposure—aperture (f-stops), shutter speed, depth of field
 - c. Depth of Field
 - d. Composition—rule of thirds, leading lines, framing, depth
 - e. Angle of view
 - f. Stopping action
 - g. Timing

3. Explain the basic parts and operation of a film camera or digital 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 with two different depth of fields.
 - d. Photograph one subject with two different compositional techniques.
5. Photograph THREE of the following, then share your work your counselor.
- 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. Select a photo you have taken, then do ONE of the following, and share what you have done with your counselor.
- a. Crop your photograph.
 - b. Adjust the exposure or make a color correction.
 - c. Show another way you could improve your picture for impact.

Post-Work (Due 1 month after class)

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. Do the following: a. Plan the images you need to photograph for your photo story. b. Share your plan with your counselor and get your counselor's input and approval before you proceed. 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 with your counselor.

Work completed after the program:

If your scout needs blue card sign-off after the class date, please email your merit badge counselor directly or call (703)768-2525 to arrange a time to meet with a merit badge counselor.

We're looking forward to working with your scout.

Huntley Meadows Park Staff
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Fairfax County Park Authority
703-768-2525