

Environmental Science Merit Badge

Please bring to class:

- **Pre-Work – listed below**
- Blue card
- Pen
- Snack/lunch and a drink
- Appropriate clothing to go outside to observe the weather

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.

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.

2. Ecology. Do the following and discuss with your counselor:

- (a) Choose an area approved by your counselor and observe (sight, sound, and smell) its ecosystem over a two-day period.
- (b) Make notes about the living, nonliving (e.g. rocks) and formerly living components. Include information about interactions among the components, including the food chain, predators, native species, and invasive species) and identify how human activities have affected the ecosystem.

7. Pollution Prevention, Resource Recovery, and Conservation. Do ONE of the following and discuss with your counselor:

- (a) Determine five ways to conserve resources or use resources more efficiently in your home, school, or camp. Practice at least two of these methods for at least one week.
- (b) Explain Resource Recovery and why it is important to reduce pollution. Collect samples or take photos of ten items that can demonstrate the principle of Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. Explain your collection, how these materials are currently handled, and potential improvements.
- (c) Identify five items in your household that will become hazardous waste. Explain how they should be properly stored, what special care is needed for disposal, and proper disposal options available in your area.

11. Identify three career opportunities that would use skills and knowledge in the environmental science field. Pick one and research the training, education, certification requirements, experience, and expenses associated with entering the field. Research the prospects for employment, starting salary, advancement opportunities and career goals associated with this career. Discuss what you learned with your counselor and whether you might be interested in this career.

Huntley Meadows Park

Fairfax County Park Authority

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