

Hello Scouts,

I just wanted to touch base with you regarding your upcoming Mammal Study Merit Badge class. This badge is a two-hour class with the possibility of spending time outside on trails, depending on the weather.

Please wear long pants and shoes that can possibly get dirty. No sandals!

If you would like, bring water and a snack.



Prework (Requirement 3a)

From your studying and reading, write a simple life history of one *non-game mammal* that lives in your area. **(Examples of GAME animals include deer, squirrel, bear, elk, or rabbit).** In your report:

- Tell how the mammal lived before its habitat was affected in any way by humans
- Tell how it reproduces
- Tell what it eats
- Tell what its natural habitat is
- Describe its dependency upon plants and other animals, including humans
- Tell how it is helpful or harmful to humankind

Here's helpful wildlife information from the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries:
www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlife/.

We will try to include building a brush shelter for mammals as part of the program, however, you may choose to build a bat or squirrel box and bring it to the program. Either one will fulfill the criteria for **requirement 5**.

We will complete the following requirements in class:

Requirement 1: Explain the meaning of "Animal, Invertebrate, Vertebrate, and Mammal."

Requirement 2: Explain how the animal kingdom is classified, where mammals fit in to this classification, and classify three mammals from phylum through species.

Requirement 4: (when possible) Take good pictures of two kinds of mammals in the wild. Record the date(s), time of day, weather conditions, approximate distance from the animal, habitat conditions and any other factors you feel may have influenced the animal's activity and behavior.

Requirement 5: Carry out one project that will influence the numbers of one or more mammals.

If you have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to meeting you.

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