

Sustainability Merit Badge at Lake Fairfax Park

Welcome to the Sustainability Merit Badge Program at Lake Fairfax Park. The exact meeting location for the class is at the Lake Fairfax Park Main Office. Lake Fairfax Park is located at:

1400 Lake Fairfax Drive

Reston, VA 20190.

Scouts should be dressed appropriately for the weather. Be Prepared!

Important Merit Badge information for parents:

- Please be familiar with the requirements of the program your scout has selected. Some badges take considerable time and planning to complete. Some badges may not be appropriate for younger scouts.
- Scouts should bring their blue cards signed by their troop leader. Lake Fairfax Park does not have blue cards.
- This badge program is a single 4-hour class. Every badge requires some independent work by your scout. All requirements, including prework, the program, and postwork, must be completed before park staff can sign the merit badge card. Note: Not all badges will have postwork.
- Please be prepared for the possibility that you may have to stay for the program and not just drop off your scout. We encourage that one or more adults remain. There is no fee for adults, and you are sure to learn something. 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. Additionally, adults may help keep the atmosphere calm and productive. It is also in keeping with the scouting guidelines for youth protection.
- ARRIVE ON TIME – EARLY IS BETTER! PLAN TO ARRIVE 5 MINUTES EARLY. IF SCOUTS ARE LATE, THEY MAY NOT COMPLETE THE BADGE.

What to bring to the program:

- Bring your completed homework. It is OK if you cannot complete the homework before class. You can bring the completed homework in at a later date for sign-off and will receive partial credit until the rest is completed.
- Come prepared to discuss and present your homework. As we move from one topic to the next during class scouts will be asked to present homework elements completed. It will be more important to prove that you have understood a requirement orally rather than just presenting written information.
- Bring your blue card. (Lake Fairfax Park does not have blue cards.)
- Bring/wear weather appropriate clothing/outerwear. We will not go outdoors in heavy rain or thunderstorms. Boy Scout uniform is not required.
- Bring a pencil and pen.

- Bring a snack/ lunch and water bottle.

Below is the recommended **pre-work** to be completed before the program:

Read the Sustainability booklet.

Record the responses to these questions in your merit badge workbook or on a separate piece of paper AND BRING THIS PREWORK TO CLASS. Please attach photo evidence or any supplementary data sheets if the question requires you to provide this information. Merit badge worksheets may be downloaded from Sustainability Merit Badge (usscouts.org) and brought to class. These worksheets help scouts organize their homework and classwork.

1. Describe the meaning of sustainability in your own words. Explain the importance of sustainability to society and how you can contribute to fulfilling the needs of current generations without compromising the needs of future generations.

2(a OR b) Water. Do ONE of the following and discuss with your counselor: a. Evaluate your household water usage. If available, review water bills from the past year and evaluate the seasonal changes in water use. Identify three ways to help reduce water consumption. b. Explain why water is necessary in our lives. Create a diagram to show how your household gets its clean water from a natural source and what happens with the water after you use it. Tell two ways to preserve your community's access to clean water in the future.

6 (a or b) Stuff. Do ONE of the following and discuss with your counselor: a. Create a list of 15 items of your personal "stuff." Classify each item as an essential need (such as soap) or a desirable want (such as a video game). Identify any excess "stuff" you no longer need, working with your family, if possible. Donate, re purpose, or recycle those items you can. b. List five ways having too much "stuff" affects you, your family, your community, AND the world. For each of the five ways, consider the following aspects: the financial impact, time spent, maintenance, health, storage, and waste generation. Identify practices that can be used to avoid accumulating too much "stuff."

8. Do the following: a. On a camp out or other outdoor Scouting activity that you attend, make notes on the sustainability practices you and your fellow Scouts practice. Observe transportation, forestry, soil conservation, water resources, habitat, buildings, campsites, and sanitation. Share what you observed and learned with your counselor. b. Discuss with your counselor how living by the Scout Oath, Scout Law, and Outdoor Code in your daily life helps promote sustainability. c. Identify 5 behavioral changes that you and your family can make to improve the sustainability of your household. Share and discuss each with your counselor.

9. Learn about career opportunities in the sustainability field. Pick one and find out the education, training, and experience required. Discuss what you have learned with your counselor and explain why this career might interest you.

Cell phones are allowed for emergency use and/or contacting parents & guardians only.

Work completed after the program:

Once the prework, class work and postwork are completed, all elements of the merit badge will be complete. If your scout needs blue card sign-off after the class date, please call (703) 246-5931 to arrange a time to meet with a merit badge counselor.

We're looking forward to working with your scout!

Lake Fairfax Park

(703) 246-5931

1400 Lake Fairfax Drive

Reston, VA 20190

Stephanie.Jones@fairfaxcounty.gov

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/lake-fairfax/scouts>