

Important information for parents about how to prepare your scout for any merit badge program at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park!



**Please bring your blue card (it should be signed by your troop master)
We do not have blue cards!**

Be sure that you are familiar with the requirements for the merit badge your scout has selected. Some badges can be very demanding and may take considerable time and planning to complete. Some badges are not appropriate for younger scouts.

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. We call this “pre-work” because, if these requirements are performed *prior* to our program, we can complete and sign the merit badge card. Otherwise we will initial the specific requirements covered at the completion of our program and will have qualified counselors review the unmet requirements on an individual basis when your scout has completed them. Note you will have to contact and schedule an appointment with an appropriate staff member to do this. Not all staff members are qualified for all badges.

Please ***prepare 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, while other adults keep the atmosphere calm and productive. It is also in keeping with the scouting guidelines for youth protection.

Be sure your scout is dressed appropriately for being outdoors for some or all of the program time.

Packing water and snacks is wise for long programs and programs scheduled in hot weather months.

Lastly, obtaining copies of the scout resource booklet for the merit badge can help prepare your scout working with his counselor and for completing any independent study. Books for the badges can be ordered at your local scouting store or at www.scoutstuff.org.

Thank you! And best wishes for success to your scout.

Bird Study: This program consists of TWO 2-hour classes. The second class occurs one week after the first.

Pre-Work: None required but if you can complete 8a and, or do research appropriate for 7b, it will help to speed through the requirements.

Keep reading for more details

BIRD STUDY MERIT BADGE

Requirements Covered by Our Program

1. Explain the need for bird study and why birds are useful indicators of the quality of the environment.
2. Show that you are familiar with the terms used to describe birds by sketching or tracing a perched bird and then labeling 15 different parts of the bird. Sketch or trace an extended wing and label six types of wing feathers.
3. Demonstrate that you know how to properly use and care for binoculars.
 - a. Explain what the specification numbers on the binoculars mean.
 - b. Show how to adjust the eyepiece and how to focus for proper viewing.
 - c. Show how to properly care for and clean the lenses.
4. Demonstrate that you know how to use a bird field guide. Show your counselor that you are able to understand a range map by locating in the book and pointing out the wintering range, the breeding range, and/or the year-round range of one species of each of the following types of birds:
 - a. seabird
 - b. plover
 - c. falcon or hawk
 - d. warbler or vireo
 - e. heron or egret
 - f. sparrow
 - g. nonnative bird (introduced to North America from a foreign country since 1800)
5. Observe and be able to identify at least 20 species of wild birds. Prepare a field notebook, making a separate entry for each species, and record the following information from your field observations and other references.
 - Note the date and time.
 - Note the location and habitat.
 - Describe the bird's main feeding habitat and list two types of food that the bird is likely to eat.
 - Note whether the bird is a migrant or a summer, winter, or year-round resident of your area.
6. Explain the function of a bird's song. Be able to identify **five** of the 20 species in your field notebook by song or call alone. For each of these five species, enter a description of the song or call, and note the behavior of the bird making the sound. Note why you think the bird was making the call or song that you heard.
7. Do ONE of the following:
 - B. By using a public library or contacting the National Audubon Society, find the name and location of the Christmas Bird Count nearest your home and obtain the results of a recent count.**
 - 1B. Explain what kinds of information are collected during the annual event.**
 - 2B. Tell your counselor which species are most common, and explain why these birds are abundant.**
 - 3B. Tell your counselor which species are uncommon, and explain why these were present in small numbers. If the number of birds of these species is decreasing, explain why, and what, if anything, could be done to reverse their decline.**
8. Do ONE of the following. For the option you choose, describe what birds you hope to attract, and why.
 - a. **Build a bird feeder and put it in an appropriate place in your yard or another location.**