

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 (your scout master should have signed it).**

**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 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 a 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](http://www.scoutstuff.org) .

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

**Fish & Wildlife: This is one 4-hour class. PLEASE BRING A CAMERA.**

**Pre-Work (or Post-Work):**

**Requirement #5.** We suggest 5C or 5D.

**Requirement #8.**

Keep reading for more details ....

# FISH & WILDLIFE MERIT BADGE

**BE PREPARED:** The Fish & Wildlife Merit Badge program is four hours long, and covers a lot of material, including time in the field. Bring water and snacks (even an easy-to-eat sandwich). Wear closed shoes that will protect your feet and provide good support for walking. Dress for the weather—hats and gloves in the cold; sunscreen, bug spray and other anti-tick measures in warm weather.

**BRING YOUR BLUE CARD WITH YOU!** We do not have blue cards at the park. Your troop leader provides these to you. Please bring a camera to complete 6A.

## **PRE-WORK:**

- You must, either before or after the program, complete **Requirement #5**. We suggest **5C** or **5D** as projects that are within easy reach of most scouts.
- 5. Do **ONE** of the following:
  - C. Design and implement a backyard wildlife habitat improvement project and report the results.**
  - D. Design and construct a wildlife blind near a game trail, water hole, salt lick, bird feeder, or birdbath and take good photographs or make sketches from the blind of any combination of 10 wild birds, mammals, reptiles, or amphibians.**
- We will attempt to complete Requirement #6A during the program. However, if we cannot meet that requirement you can complete #6B as an alternative. Any work you do on completing either of these options before the program will bring you that much closer to completing the badge.

## **Requirements covered in our program:**

1. Describe the meaning and purposes of fish and wildlife conservation and management.
2. List and discuss at least three major problems that continue to threaten your state's fish and wildlife resources.
3. Describe some practical ways in which everyone can help with the fish and wildlife conservation effort.
4. List and describe five major fish and wildlife management practices used by managers in your state.
6. Do ONE of the following:
  - a. Observe and record 25 species of wildlife. Your list may include mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish. Write down when and where each animal was seen.**
  - b. List the wildlife species in your state that are classified as endangered, threatened, exotic, game species, furbearers, or migratory game birds.*
7. Do ONE of the following:
  - a. Determine the age of five species of fish from scale samples or identify various age classes of one species in a lake and report the results.
8. Using resources found at the library and in periodicals, books, and the Internet (with your parent's permission), learn about three different kinds of work done by fish and wildlife managers. Find out the education and training requirements for each position. (See resource below.)

If you have your parents' permission to use the internet, here is a good source about careers in Fish and Wildlife Management: <http://www.dgif.virginia.gov/jobs/careers.asp>