

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

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

**Mammal Study: This is one 2-hour class.**

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

**Requirement #3C.**

**Keep reading for more details ....**

# MAMMAL STUDY MERIT BADGE

**BE PREPARED:** The Mammal Study Merit Badge program is three hours long, depending on the weather, all of this time may be spent outside on the trails, making observations. Wear long pants but otherwise dress for the weather, wear shoes that can get muddy, & bring water. Bring a snack if you'd like.

**PRE-WORK** (or post-work; if time we will also work on this during the program):

- Complete requirement #3, option c: From study and reading, write a simple history of one non-game\* mammal that lives in your area. Tell how this mammal lived before its habitat was affected in any way by humans. Tell how it reproduces, what it eats, and its natural habitat. Describe its dependency upon plants and other animals (including humans), and how they depend upon it. Tell how it is helpful or harmful to humankind.

\*A non-game animal is not hunted. **Do NOT do a report on deer, bear, squirrel, rabbit or elk.**

These are all listed as Virginia game animals by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Their website is a great resource: <http://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, to complete requirement #5.

## Requirements

1. Explain the meaning of "animal," "invertebrate," "vertebrate," and "mammal." Name three characteristics that distinguish mammals from all other animals.
2. Explain how the animal kingdom is classified. Explain where mammals fit in the classification of animals. Classify three mammals from phylum through species.
3. Do ONE of the following:
  - a. ***From study and reading, write a simple history of one nongame mammal that lives in your area. Tell how this mammal lived before its habitat was affected in any way by humans. Tell how it reproduces, what it eats, and its natural habitat. Describe its dependency upon plants and other animals (including humans), and how they depend upon it. Tell how it is helpful or harmful to humankind. \*\****
4. Do ONE of the following:
  - a. ***Take good pictures of two kinds of mammals in the wild. Record light conditions, film used, exposure, and other factors, including notes on the activities of the pictured animals. IF TRAIL CAMERA CAPTURES ANYTHING — OTHERWISE DO 4e***
  - a. ***Trace two possible food chains of carnivorous mammals from soil through four stages to the mammal.***
5. ***Working with your counselor, select and carry out one project that will influence the numbers of one or more mammals. \*\****

\*\* Can be done as pre-work or as post-work if not completed with-in the program.