



## Camping Merit Badge at Riverbend Park

Welcome to the Camping Merit Badge program at Riverbend Park. The program is held at the Riverbend Visitor Center located at 8700 Potomac Hills Street in Great Falls unless otherwise indicated by park staff.

### **Important general Merit Badge information for parents:**

Be sure that you are familiar with the requirements for the merit badge your scout has selected. Some badges may take considerable time and planning to complete and may not be appropriate for younger scouts. Blue cards must be signed by your Troop Leader prior to attending the merit badge class. Park staff will not sign off on any blue cards missing this signature.

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.

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.

### **Below is the recommended homework to be completed before the program:**

There are some useful links at the end of some questions; however, scouts are encouraged to find their own sources (library, internet etc.). Please note that internet links change often and the recommended links may not work.

Merit badge worksheets may be downloaded from [meritbadge.org](http://meritbadge.org) and brought to class. These worksheets help scouts organize their homework and classwork.

1. Show that you know first aid and how to prevent injuries or illnesses that could occur while camping; including hypothermia, heat reactions, frostbite, dehydration, blisters, hyperventilation, insect stings, tick bites, and snakebites.  
A useful link: <http://www.princeton.edu/~oa/resources/index.shtml>
2. - Learn the Leave No Trace principles and the Outdoor Code and explain what they mean. Write a personal plan for implementing these principles on your next outing. A useful link: <https://lnt.org/>
3. Make a written plan for an overnight trek and show how to get to your camping spot using a topographical map and compass.

- A useful link: <http://www.princeton.edu/~oa/manual/mapcompass.shtml>
- 4a. Make a duty roster showing how your patrol is organized for an actual overnight campout. List the assignments for each member.
  - 5a. Prepare a list of clothing you would need for overnight campouts in both warm and cold weather. Explain the term "layering."
  - 5b. Discuss footwear for different kinds of weather and how the right footwear is important for protecting your feet.
  - 5c. Explain the proper care and storage of camping equipment (clothing, footwear, bedding).
  - 5d. List the outdoor essentials necessary for any campout, and explain why each item is needed.

- A useful link: <http://www.princeton.edu/~oa/equipment/index.shtml>
- 8c. Explain the safety procedures for:
    1. Using a propane or butane/propane stove;
    2. Using a liquid fuel stove;
    3. Proper storage of extra fuel.
  - 8b. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of different types of lightweight cooking stoves.
  - 9a. Camp a total of 20 days and 20 nights. The 20 days and 20 nights must be at a designated Scouting activity or event. Sleep each night under the sky or in a tent you have pitched. You may use a week of long-term camp toward this requirement. If the camp provides a tent that has already been pitched, you need not pitch your own tent.
  - 9b. On any of these 20 camping experiences, you must do two of the following with proper preparation and under qualified supervision
    1. Hike up a mountain, gaining at least 1,000 vertical feet
    2. Backpack, snowshoe, or cross-country ski for at least 4 miles
    3. Take a bike trip of at least 15 miles or at least 4 hours
    4. Take a nonmotorized trip on the water of at least 4 hours or 5 miles
    5. Plan and carry out an overnight snow camping experience
    6. Rappel down a rappel route of 30 feet or more

### **What to bring to the program:**

- Bring your completed homework. It is OK if you cannot complete the homework before class. You can bring completed homework in at a later date for sign-off.
- 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 a tent, if you have one. -
- Bring your blue card. (Riverbend does not have blue cards.) -
- Bring/wear weather appropriate clothing/outerwear. We will not go outdoors in heavy rain or thunderstorms. Boy Scout uniform not required. -
- Bring a pencil and pen. -
- Bring a flashlight, if the program is held after dusk. -
- We recommend that you download the merit badge worksheets from [meritbadge.com](http://meritbadge.com) and bring these worksheets to class. These worksheets help scouts organize their homework and classwork.

- Bring a snack and drink or money to purchase some at the visitor center. Bring more substantial food if your program is longer than four hours.

**Work completed after the program:**

During the program, the merit badge counselor will do a demonstration or explain the process for completing the final merit badge requirements. Your scout must provide evidence of completion in order to obtain blue card sign-off. Digital photographs of your scout doing the element and a picture of the completed requirement will be sufficient evidence, unless otherwise stated.

If your scout needs blue card sign-off after the class date, please call 703-759-9018 to arrange a time to meet with a merit badge counselor.

We're looking forward to working with your scout.

Riverbend Park  
703-759-9018  
8700 Potomac Hills Street  
Great Falls, VA 22066  
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/riverbend-park/>