



SUSTAINABILITY Merit Badge Cub Run RECenter



The Sustainability merit badge is a 4-hour class with quite a bit of pre-work – THE PREWORK MUST BE COMPLETED BEFORE CLASS!! Scouts will need to review family utility usage/bills, expenditures, etc., in order to follow up with class discussions. Family participation is needed to finish all the work.

Any questions, please contact Chris Malm at Cub Run RECenter at Christina.Terpak-Malm@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-817-9407.

Please bring:

- Partially completed worksheet with prework completed!! (see below)
- Blue card (preferably signed by your scoutmaster) pen/pencil
- Snack and water

PREWORK:

1. Before starting work on any other requirements for this merit badge, write in your own words the meaning of sustainability.

Have a family meeting and ask family members to write down what they think sustainability means. Be sure to take notes. (This info will be used again for requirement 5.)

WATER

- A. Develop and implement a plan that attempts to reduce your family's water usage. Examine your family's water bills reflecting usage for three months. As a family, choose three ways to help reduce consumption. Implement those ideas for one month and be prepared to share what you learned with your counselor, and tell how your plan affected your family's water usage.

FOOD

- A. Develop and implement a plan that attempts to reduce your household food waste. Establish a baseline and then track and record your results for 2 weeks. Be prepared to report your results to your family and counselor.

ENERGY – do either B or C

- B. Develop and implement a plan that attempts to reduce consumption of one of your family's utilities (for example, electricity or natural gas).

Examine your family's bills for that utility reflection usage for 3 months.

As a family, choose 3 ways to help reduce consumption and be a better steward of this resource. Implement those ideas for one moth. Be prepared to share what you learn with your counselor and tell how your plan affected your family's usage.

OR

- C. Evaluate your family's fuel and transportation usage.

Review your family's transportation related bills (whichever – gas, diesel, electric, public transportation, etc.) reflecting usage for 3 moths.

As a family, choose 3 ways to help reduce consumption and be a better steward of this resource.

Implement those ideas for one month. Be prepared to share what you learn with your counselor and tell how your plan affected your family's transportation habits.

STUFF

- A. Keep a log of the "stuff" your family purchases (excluding food items) for 2 weeks. In your log, categorize each purchase as an essential need (such as soap) or desirable want (such as a DVD). (a blank log can be found at the end of the work book.)

Be prepared to share what your learn with your counselor.

5. a. Discuss with your family what it means to be a sustainable citizen.

Talk about the behavioral changes and life choices your family can make to live more sustainably.