

Mammal Merit Badge

Important information for parents about how to prepare your scout for Mammal Merit Badge Program at Burke Lake Park. **Please bring your blue card. We do not have any blue cards.** Print out Mammal Workbook (pages 3-10 of this pdf) to bring to class.



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 .

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.



Mammal Study

Merit Badge Workbook



This workbook can help you but you still need to read the merit badge pamphlet.

The work space provided for each requirement should be used by the Scout to make notes for discussing the item with his counselor, not for providing the full and complete answers. Each Scout must do each requirement.

No one may add or subtract from the official requirements found in **Boy Scout Requirements** (Pub. 33216 – SKU 620714).

The requirements were last issued or revised in 2015 • This workbook was updated in February 2015.

Scout's Name: _____ Unit: _____

Counselor's Name: _____ Counselor's Phone No.: _____

<http://www.USScouts.Org> • <http://www.MeritBadge.Org>

Please submit errors, omissions, comments or suggestions about this **workbook** to: Workbooks@USScouts.Org
 Comments or suggestions for changes to the **requirements** for the **merit badge** should be sent to: Merit.Badge@Scouting.Org

1. Explain the meaning of "animal," "invertebrate," "vertebrate," and "mammal."

Animal

Invertebrate

Vertebrate

Mammal

- c. From study and reading, write a simple life 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, upon 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. Under the guidance of a nature center or natural history museum, make two study skins of rats or mice.

<input type="checkbox"/> Skin 1:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Skin 2:	

Tell the uses of study skins and mounted specimens respectively.

- b. Take good pictures of two kinds of mammals in the wild. Record the date(s), time of day, weather conditions, approximate distance from the animal, habitat conditions, and any other factors you feel may have influenced the animal's activity and behavior.

	Photo 1	Photo 2
Mammal:		
Date:		
Time of Day:		
Weather Conditions:		
Approx. Distance:		
Habitat Conditions:		
Other factors:		

- c. Write a life history of a native game mammal that lives in your area, covering the points outlined in requirement 3c. List sources for this information

Native Game Animal: _____

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, upon other animals (including humans), and how they depend upon it.

Tell how it is helpful or harmful to humankind.

Sources:

- d. Make a bait and tracking pit.

Report what mammals and other animals came to the bait.

- e. Visit a natural history museum.

Report on how specimens are prepared and cataloged.

Explain the purposes of museums.

- f. Write a report of 500 words on a book about a mammal species. *(Use a separate page.)*
- g. Trace two possible food chains of carnivorous mammals from soil through four stages to the mammal.

Possible food chain 1:

--

Soil:	
Stage 1:	
Stage 2:	
Stage 3:	
Stage 4:	

Possible food chain 2:	
Soil:	
Stage 1:	
Stage 2:	
Stage 3:	
Stage 4:	

5. Working with your counselor, select and carry out one project that will influence the numbers of one or more mammals.

Requirement resources can be found here:
[http://www.meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Mammal Study#Requirement resources](http://www.meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Mammal_Study#Requirement_resources)

Important excerpts from the [Guide To Advancement - 2013](#), No. 33088 (SKU-618673)

[1.0.0.0] — Introduction

The current edition of the *Guide to Advancement* is the official source for administering advancement in all Boy Scouts of America programs: Cub Scouting, Boy Scouting, Varsity Scouting, Venturing, and Sea Scouts. It replaces any previous BSA advancement manuals, including *Advancement Committee Policies and Procedures*, *Advancement and Recognition Policies and Procedures*, and previous editions of the *Guide to Advancement*.

[Page 2, and 5.0.1.4] — Policy on Unauthorized Changes to Advancement Program

No council, committee, district, unit, or individual has the authority to add to, or subtract from, advancement requirements. There are limited exceptions relating only to youth members with special needs. For details see section 10, “Advancement for Members With Special Needs”.

[Page 2] — The “Guide to Safe Scouting” Applies

Policies and procedures outlined in the *Guide to Safe Scouting*, No. 34416, apply to all BSA activities, including those related to advancement and Eagle Scout service projects.

[7.0.3.1] — The Buddy System and Certifying Completion

A youth member must not meet one-on-one with an adult. Sessions with counselors must take place where others can view the interaction, or the Scout must have a buddy: a friend, parent, guardian, brother, sister, or other relative—or better yet, another Scout working on the same badge—along with him attending the session.

When the Scout meets with the counselor, he should bring any required projects. If these cannot be transported, he should present evidence, such as photographs or adult verification. His unit leader, for example, might state that a satisfactory bridge or tower has been built for the Pioneering merit badge, or that meals were prepared for Cooking. If there are questions that requirements were met, a counselor may confirm with adults involved. Once satisfied, the counselor signs the blue card using the date upon which the Scout completed the requirements, or in the case of partials, initials the individual requirements passed.

Note that from time to time, it may be appropriate for a requirement that has been met for one badge to also count for another. See “Fulfilling More Than One Requirement With a Single Activity,” 4.2.3.6.

[7.0.3.2] — Group Instruction

It is acceptable—and sometimes desirable—for merit badges to be taught in group settings. This often occurs at camp and merit badge midways or similar events. Interactive group discussions can support learning. The method can also be attractive to “guest experts” assisting registered and approved counselors. Slide shows, skits, demonstrations, panels, and various other techniques can also be employed, but as any teacher can attest, not everyone will learn all the material.

There must be attention to each individual’s projects and his fulfillment of *all* requirements. We must know that every Scout—actually and *personally*—completed them. If, for example, a requirement uses words like “show,” “demonstrate,” or “discuss,” then every Scout must do that. It is unacceptable to award badges on the basis of sitting in classrooms *watching* demonstrations, or remaining silent during discussions.

It is sometimes reported that Scouts who have received merit badges through group instructional settings have not fulfilled all the requirements. To offer a quality merit badge program, council and district advancement committees should ensure the following are in place for all group instructional events.

- Merit badge counselors are known to be registered and approved.
- Any guest experts or guest speakers, or others assisting who are not registered and approved as merit badge counselors, do not accept the responsibilities of, or behave as, merit badge counselors, either at a group instructional event or at any other time. Their service is temporary, not ongoing.
- Counselors agree not to assume prerequisites have been completed without some level of evidence that the work has been done. Pictures and letters from other merit badge counselors or unit leaders are the best form of prerequisite documentation when the actual work done cannot be brought to the camp or site of the merit badge event.
- There is a mechanism for unit leaders or others to report concerns to a council advancement committee on summer camp merit badge programs, group instructional events, and any other merit badge counseling issues—especially in instances where it is believed BSA procedures are not followed. See “Reporting Merit Badge Counseling Concerns,” 11.1.0.0.
- There must be attention to each individual’s projects and his fulfillment of all requirements. We must know that every Scout—actually and *personally*—completed them.

[7.0.3.3] — Partial Completions

A Scout need not pass all the requirements of one merit badge with the same counselor. It may be that due to timing or location issues, etc., he must meet with a different counselor to finish the badge. The Application for Merit Badge has a place to record what has been finished—a “partial.” In the center section on the reverse of the blue card, the counselor initials for each requirement passed. In the case of a partial completion, the counselor does not retain his or her portion of the card. A subsequent counselor may choose not to accept partial work, but this should be rare. A Scout, if he believes he is being treated unfairly, may work with his unit leader to find another counselor. An example for the use of a signed partial would be to take it to camp as proof of prerequisites. Partials have no expiration except the Scout’s 18th birthday. Units, districts, or councils shall not establish other expiration dates for partial merit badges.

[7.0.4.8] — Unofficial Worksheets and Learning Aids

Worksheets and other materials that may be of assistance in earning merit badges are available from a variety of places including unofficial sources on the Internet and even troop libraries. Use of these aids is permissible as long as the materials can be correlated with the current requirements that Scouts must fulfill. Completing “worksheets” may suffice where a requirement calls for something in writing, but this would not work for a requirement where the Scout must discuss, tell, show, or demonstrate, etc. Note that Scouts shall not be required to use these learning aids in order to complete a merit badge.