

## Nature Merit Badge Prerequisites and Notes

### General notes for all badges

**ALL NATURE MERIT BADGES WILL NEED MERIT BADGE PAMPHLET, PAPER AND PENCIL/PEN EVERY DAY OF CAMP.**  
**BRING THEM THE FIRST DAY AND EVERY DAY THEREAFTER.**

The Nature center merit badges are a bit different from other camp badges - they often rely heavily on the merit badge pamphlet for providing the necessary information for some of the badge work. Please provide each scout with their own copy of the pamphlet for class work. There will be a fair amount of reading and writing in some of the badges, if a scout doesn't wish to do this at camp, then the badge can also be worked on outside of camp. Most of the camp counselors are available after camp for completing partials or individual work.

Each badge has a recommended grade level. This is for scouts with an average ability and interest. Scoutmasters know their scouts best; if after a careful reading of the requirements with the scout you both feel that he will be ready for the badge before the indicated grade completion, by all means sign him up.

If a badge is labeled as 'directed study', then there will be no formal class time at camp. Scouts may do the work on their own before or during camp. Counselors will be available to assist scouts with questions in these badges during open program time.

### Astronomy

- Recommended for scouts who have finished 8th grade. Night work will be available depending on weather and the phase of the moon for your week of camp.
- This badge requires the scout have access to the merit badge pamphlet.
- Merit badge worksheet available at [meritbadge.org](http://meritbadge.org) .
- Prerequisites: 4a (ID 10 constellations, 4 in zodiac), 4c (Big Dipper sketches), 6 (4 weekly planet sketches), 7b (moon sketches for a week). Will discuss #9 (planetarium visit or star party) to be done after camp.

### Bird Study (Directed Study)

- Recommended for scouts who have finished 8th grade. Scouts will need binoculars and a bird field guide with range maps for the class. Plan on spending time outside of class time on bird observation and identification.
- This badge requires the scout have access to the merit badge pamphlet.
- Merit badge worksheet available at [meritbadge.org](http://meritbadge.org) .
- Prerequisites: Start 5 (ID 20 birds) and 6 (bird songs of 5 of the 20 birds in #5). 7 (field trip or Christmas Bird Count), 8 (bird feeder, bath or sanctuary).

### Environmental Science

- Recommended for scouts who have finished 8th grade. This is an Eagle required badge. Many scouts are eager to get it 'out of the way', but attempting this badge too young will be frustrating for the scout.
- This badge requires the scout have access to the merit badge pamphlet.
- Merit badge worksheet available at [meritbadge.org](http://meritbadge.org) .
- Prerequisites: 3e (endangered species report)

### **Fish and Wildlife Management (Directed Study)**

- Recommended for scouts who have finished 7th grade.
- This badge requires the scout have access to the merit badge pamphlet.
- Merit badge worksheet available at [meritbadge.org](http://meritbadge.org) .
- Prerequisites: 5 (nest box, feeder, habitat improvement or observation blind), 8 (research careers).

### **Fishing**

- Recommended for scouts who have finished 5th grade.
- Scout will need a fishing rod, lures/bait and nail clippers. Worms will be available at camp. A limited number of rods are available at the nature center.
- Prerequisites: none. Bring fishing pole, bait and nail clippers to first class.

### **Fly Fishing (Directed Study)**

- Recommended for scouts who have finished 7th grade.
- Scout will need a fly fishing rod & reel, flies and nail clippers. Will tie at least two flies at camp.
- Prerequisites: none. Bring fishing pole, flies and nail clippers to first class.

### **Forestry (Directed Study)**

- Recommended for scouts who have finished 8th grade. Plan to spend significant time on the field notebook.
- This badge requires the scout have access to the merit badge pamphlet.
- Merit badge worksheet available at [meritbadge.org](http://meritbadge.org) .
- Prerequisites: 5 (visit forest or industry), 7 (visit with forester, or career report). May want to start field notebook (requirement 1) before camp

### **Geology**

- Recommended for scouts who have finished 7th grade.
- This badge requires the scout have access to the merit badge pamphlet.
- Merit badge worksheet available at [meritbadge.org](http://meritbadge.org) .
- Prerequisites: 4 (visit with geologist, or career opportunities)

### **Insect Study (Directed Study)**

- Recommended for scouts who have finished 7th grade.
- This badge requires the scout have access to the merit badge pamphlet.
- Merit badge worksheet available at [meritbadge.org](http://meritbadge.org) .
- Prerequisites: 4a & b (observe 20 insects, make scrapbook), 7(raise an insect), 11 (career opportunities)

### **Mammal Study**

- Recommended for scouts who have finished 5th grade.
- Merit badge worksheet available at [meritbadge.org](http://meritbadge.org) .
- Prerequisites: none

## **Nature**

- Recommended for scouts who have finished 7th grade. Plan to spend time outside of class on collecting.
- Merit badge worksheet available at [meritbadge.org](http://meritbadge.org) .
- Prerequisites: 4a2 (build bird house, feeder or bath, observe for 1 month), 4d2. Will need own materials for mounting and storing any specimens (leaves, seeds, insects, rocks) collected at camp.

## **Oceanography (Directed Study)**

- Recommended for scouts who have finished 7th grade.
- This badge requires the scout have access to the merit badge pamphlet.
- Merit badge worksheet available at [meritbadge.org](http://meritbadge.org) .
- Prerequisites: 7 (various projects), 8 (report or talk)

## **Plant Science**

- Recommended for Scouts who have finished 7th grade.
- This badge requires the scout have access to the merit badge pamphlet.
- Merit badge worksheet available at [meritbadge.org](http://meritbadge.org).
- Prerequisites: 4 (grow plant), 5 (10 native & 10 cultivated plants near home, 5 invasive plants), 6 (research careers), 7, Option 3, E research rare plants

## **Reptile and Amphibian Study**

- Recommended for scouts who have finished 7th grade.
- This badge requires the scout have access to the merit badge pamphlet.
- Merit badge worksheet available at [meritbadge.org](http://meritbadge.org) .
- Prerequisites: 1 (identifying characteristics and sketches), 4(information on protected species), 8a or b (observations of reptile or amphibian)

## **Soil & Water Conservation**

- Recommended for scouts who have finished 7th grade.
- This badge requires the scout to have access to the merit badge pamphlet.
- Merit badge worksheet available at [meritbadge.org](http://meritbadge.org) .
- Prerequisites: none.

## **Space Exploration**

- Recommended for scouts who have finished 6th grade.
- This badge requires the scout have access to the merit badge pamphlet.
- Merit badge worksheet available at [meritbadge.org](http://meritbadge.org) .
- Prerequisites: Bring rocket kit from home or \$12 - \$15 at camp. 2 (collector's card), research 5 (information on unmanned and early manned missions as well as info on sampling mission), 8 (information on two space exploration careers)

## **Textile**

- Recommended for scouts who have finished 6th grade.
- This badge requires the scout have access to the merit badge pamphlet.
- Small fee for felting and dyeing supplies.
- Merit badge worksheet available at [meritbadge.org](http://meritbadge.org).
- Prerequisites: research careers

### **Veterinary Medicine**

- Recommended for scouts who have finished 7th grade.
- Merit badge worksheet available at [meritbadge.org](http://meritbadge.org) .
- Prerequisites: 6 (veterinary visits)

### **Weather**

- Recommended for scouts who have finished 7th grade.
- This badge requires the scout have access to the merit badge pamphlet.
- Merit badge worksheet available at [meritbadge.org](http://meritbadge.org) .
- Prerequisites: 8 (weather instrument or visit), 9b research (acid rain info), research 10 (careers)