



Nature Merit Badge

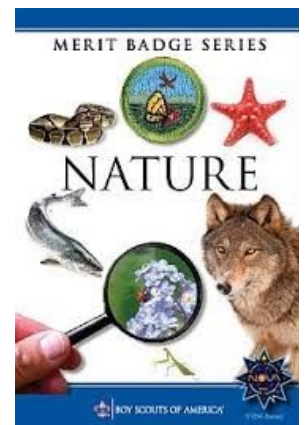
An online virtual Scouting experience provided by the Narragansett Council - Boy Scouts of America



The Nature Merit Badge combines a Scouts desire to go outdoors with useful knowledge about plant life and animals. Scouts have the opportunity to choose and identify the forms of nature that interest them most, from reptiles and amphibians to mollusks and crustaceans. Nature Merit Badge is not too challenging, but allows Scouts to think and learn about parts of nature and ecology that they may have never been previously exposed to.

What to expect in the nature merit badge?

Nature Merit Badge has been broken down into two virtual merit badge sessions with a choice of requirements to be completed between the meetings. There are no required supplies for the virtual sessions but Scouts should be prepared to think and share ideas with the others in the class. Scouts should have a desire to learn more about the natural world around them and have time between the virtual sessions to go outside and complete the requirements that interest them the most.



More Virtual Merit Badges Available Here!





Virtual Merit Badge Session 1

Duration: 1 hour

1. Introduction & Welcome
2. Discussion: Three ways in which plants are important to animals. Name a plant that is protected in your state or region, and explain why it is at risk. (requirement #1)
3. Overview of the 7 Leave No Trace principles.
4. Discussion: Three ways in which animals are important to plants. Name an animal that is protected in your state or region, and explain why it is at risk. (requirement #2)
5. Discussion: poisonous vs venomous
6. Out of class assignment explanation
7. Conclusion & Dismissal

After the completion of Virtual Session #1, Scouts should begin work on the out of class assignment that should be completed prior to Virtual Session #2.

Virtual Merit Badge Session 2

Duration: 1 hour

1. Introduction & Welcome
2. Round Robin: Share homework findings and images
3. Explain the term "food chain." Give an example of a four-step land food chain and a four-step water food chain. (requirement #3)
4. Conclusion & Dismissal





Out of Class Requirements

Choose two of the following fields of study and complete the requirements listed below.

Birds

1. In the field, identify eight species of birds.
2. Make and set out a birdhouse OR a feeding station OR a birdbath. List what birds used it during a period of one month.

Mammals

1. In the field, identify three species of wild mammals.
2. Make plaster casts of the tracks of a wild mammal.

Reptiles and Amphibians

1. Show that you can recognize the poisonous snakes in your area.
2. In the field, identify three species of reptiles or amphibians.
3. Recognize one species of toad or frog by voice; OR identify one reptile or amphibian by eggs, den, burrow, or other signs.

Insects and Spiders

1. Collect and identify either in the field or through photographs of 10 species of insects or spiders.
2. Hatch an insect from the pupa or cocoon; OR hatch adults from nymphs; OR keep larvae until they form pupae or cocoons; OR keep a colony of ants or bees through one season.

Fish

1. Identify two species of fish native to your area.
2. Collect four kinds of animal food eaten by fish in the wild.

Mollusks and Crustaceans

1. Identify five species of mollusks and crustaceans.
2. Collect, mount, and label six shells.

Plants

1. In the field, identify 15 species of wild plants.
2. Collect and label seeds of six plants OR the leaves of 12 plants.

Soils and Rocks

1. Collect and identify soils found in different layers of a soil profile.
2. Collect and identify five different types of rocks from your area.

