



Introduction

Your challenge as a summer camp merit badge counselor is to see that the Scouts who attend your session have the best opportunity to learn about environmental science. It is important that they have a positive. This lesson plan is designed to help you plan a logical, high-quality program. You may have to use a slightly different approach in presenting the material based on your camp resources and facilities. Sign off on requirements as the Scouts complete them.

Resources

Be sure to utilize all the resources available to you. State and federal agencies or other organizations can provide you with a variety of materials and displays and can make presentations at your camp. Make sure you don't wait until the last minute to ask for help. These agencies need time to arrange for personnel and materials.

| DAY | ACTIVITY | DESCRIPTION |
|-----|--------------|---|
| 1 | Greet Scouts | A. Examine all merit badge cards for the Scoutmaster's signature. Make a roster of the Scouts. |
| | Review | B. Review requirement 1 with Scouts. Refer to pages 6–36 in the merit badge pamphlet. |
| | Selection | C. Have each Scout select an area of camp that he will observe for the next four days at different times of the day (requirement 5). |
| | | D. Have Scouts build an ecosystem in a bottle (requirement 4). |
| | Record | E. Have the Scouts record the following items (requirement 2): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population • Community • Ecosystem • Biosphere • Symbiosis • Extinction • Niche • Habitat • Conservation • Threatened species • Endangered species |
| 2 | Remind | A. Remind Scouts to visit their observation area and observe their ecosystem. |
| | Review/Plan | B. Review requirement 3 with Scouts and discuss the projects that would be most applicable to do at camp. Refer the Scouts to resources available at camp. |
| | Hike/Discuss | C. Take a hike and stop several times to discuss requirement 6. |

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| 3 | Remind | A. | Remind Scouts to visit the observation area and observe their ecosystem. |
| | Hike | B. | Take a hike, stopping frequently to discuss requirement 7. |
| | Work | C. | Have Scouts continue work on their projects for requirement 5. |
| 4 | Work | A. | Have Scouts continue work on their projects for requirement 5. |
| | Remind | B. | Remind Scouts to visit the observation area and report their findings tomorrow, as well as report on their projects. |
| | Note | C. | This is the time to make sure that all the Scouts are proceeding on schedule. If it looks like anyone is having a problem completing the merit badge, the Scoutmaster should be notified. |
| 5 | Wrap up | A. | Wrap up all the requirements. Prepare the merit badge cards for the proper signatures. If any Scout does not complete all the requirements, make sure that his records properly indicate the requirements that he has completed and that the Scout knows why he did not complete the badge requirements. |
| | | B. | Submit necessary records to the camp program director. |