



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 insect study. It is important that they have a positive experience. 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.

Resources Be sure to utilize all the resources available to you. There are many state and federal agencies that can assist you in presenting this merit badge program.

Note Requirement 3 will require a substantial amount of time to complete. A Scout will need to start working on this requirement before attending camp if he hopes to complete the merit badge during his stay at summer camp. Also, requirement 7 will take time to complete.

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. Discuss the difference between spiders, insects, and centipedes (requirement 1).
	Reminder	C. Remind Scouts that they need to observe an ant colony or beehive during the week (requirement 9). They should observe the colony or hive at several different times of day to note the activity.
2	Discuss/Demo	A. Discuss requirement 2 and point out the parts of an insect.
	Review	B. Discuss the principal families and order of insects.
	Hike	C. Go on a nature hike and observe the various insects found in your camp. Scouts working on their collection should have an opportunity to capture insects for requirement 3.
	Reminder	D. Remind Scouts that they need to observe the ant colony or beehive they have located.
3	Discuss/Demo	A. Discuss and show the Scouts four species of insects in your camp that are helpful to humans and six species of insects that are harmful (requirements 10a and 10b).
	Hike	B. Take another hike and observe more insects and permit Scouts to collect more insects for requirement 3.
	Discuss	C. While you are on your hike, discuss the difference between social and solitary insects (requirement 8).

	Reminder	D. Remind Scouts that they need to observe the ant colony or beehive they have located.
4	Demonstrate	A. Demonstrate and discuss how insects fit into the food chains for other insects, fish, birds, and mammals (requirement 11).
	Discuss	B. Discuss the life histories of a butterfly and grasshopper. Tell how they are different (requirement 6).
	Review	C. Have any Scouts who are ready review their observation of a beehive or ant colony.
	Note	D. 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. Have Scouts present their collections for requirement 3 and discuss requirements 4 and 5.
		B. 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.
		C. Submit necessary records to the camp program director.