



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 nature. 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 provide you with a variety of materials and support to help you present the Nature merit badge program.

Note

In order to complete requirement 4a (birds) the Scout must have a birdhouse or feeder set out at least one month before coming to camp and bring with him a list of birds. The list should be initialed by the Scoutmaster. In requirement 4h (soils and rocks) the Scout may need to bring five different types of rocks from his area to camp.

DAY	ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION
1	Greet Scouts	A. Examine all merit badge cards for the Scoutmaster's signature. Make a roster of the Scouts.
	Hike/Observe	B. Take a nature hike, explaining to the group the information for requirements 1–3. Remind them to watch for species of mammals and mammal tracks for requirement 4b (mammals).
	Hike/Observe	C. While on the hike, allow participants to make plaster casts for requirement 4b (mammals). Every Scout must make a cast.
2–5	Hike/Observe	A. Take a nature hike, allowing the Scouts to collect leaves of 12 plants or the seeds of six plants, and help them identify 15 species of plants. Point out plants for participants to identify (requirement 4g).
	Hike/Observe	B. While on the hike, allow Scouts to collect necessary soil samples and/or rocks for requirement 4h (soils and rocks).
	Hike/Observe	C. Help Scouts identify eight species of birds, then point out birds, allowing participants to identify them to complete requirement 4a (birds).
	Hike/Observe	D. Allow participants to identify three species of reptiles or amphibians, or one reptile or amphibian by its den, burrow, or eggs, etc., to complete requirement 4c (reptiles or amphibians). Show that you can recognize what poisonous snakes can be found in your area.
	Note	E. Inform the Scoutmaster of any Scout who might not complete the badge.

- 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.