

Nature Lore Merit Badge Worksheet



Requirement 1

After personal investigation, select for study one typical wildlife community, approved by your Counselor – forest, field, marsh, pond, mountaintop, ocean, shore, etc. – near your home or at a favorite campsite.

What typical wildlife community have you selected? _____

Counselor Signature (Approval of Selection): _____

Date Approved By Counselor: _____

Take at least two hikes within the area:

Date of Hike # 1 _____

Date of Hike # 2 _____

Date of Hike # 3 _____ (optional)

Date of Hike # 4 _____ (optional)

Do the following:

- a. Submit a list of the most commonly found plants (trees, shrubs, flowers, grasses, etc.) and animals (mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, fish, insects, mollusks).

#	Commonly Found Plants	Type (tree, shrub, flower, grass, etc)
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

#	Commonly Found Animals	Type (mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian, fish, insect, mollusk)
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		

b. Report on kinds of soils and most commonly found rocks.

#	Kinds of Soils
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

#	Commonly Found Rocks
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	

c. Describe springs, streams, lakes, and other bodies of water found.

#	Types of Bodies of Water	Describe
1	Springs	
2	Streams	
3	Lakes	
4	Other(s)	

Requirement 2

From readings or talks with your Counselor – tell how temperature, wind, rainfall, altitude, geology, tide, wild or domestic animals, or man help make the selected area what it is.

Factors	Tell How It Help Make the Selected Area
Temperature	
Wind	
Rainfall	

Factors	Tell How It Help Make the Selected Area
Altitude	
Geology	
Tide	
Wild or Domestic Animals	
Man	

Tell what is meant by the term “plant succession”.

Tell briefly what successions have occurred in the selected area in the last fifty years, and what would probably happen in the next fifty years if the area is left undisturbed by man.

Successions the last fifty years:

Next fifty years if left undisturbed by man:

Requirement 3

Do all the requirements in two of the following fields.

Birds:

- a. Identify in the field fifteen species of birds:

1.	6.	11.
2.	7.	12.
3.	8.	13.
4.	9.	14.
5.	10.	15.

- b. Recognize ten species of birds by calls or songs, or determine their presence by nests or other signs:

Bird Species Identified	How identified (calls, songs, presence of nests, or other signs)
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	

- c. Make and set out three bird-houses or feeding stations, and tell what birds used them; or photograph nests of four species of bird.

Birds Used Bird-House or Feeder
1.
2.
3.

OR

Bird Species Nests Photographed
1.
2.
3.
4.

Requirement 3

Do all of the requirements in two of the following fields:

Mammals:

- a. Identify in the field six species of wild mammals.

1.	4.
2.	5.
3.	6.

- b. Recognize in the field the signs of six species of wild mammals.

Wild Mammal Recognized	Signs in the Field of Identified Wild Mammal
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	

- c. Make plaster cast of the tracks of three wild mammals; or photograph two species of wild mammals.

Wild Mammal Tracks Plaster Cast
1.
2.
3.

OR

Wild Mammal Photographed
1.
2.

Requirement 3

Do all of the requirements in two of the following fields:

Reptiles and Amphibians:

- a. Recognize the poisonous snakes in your area, and identify in the field six species of reptiles or amphibians (snake, turtles, lizards, frogs, toads, salamanders).

Poisonous snakes in your area	Identify six species of reptiles or amphibians:	
1.	1.	4.
2.	2.	5.
3.	3.	6.

- b. Recognize two species of toads or frogs by their voices; or identify three reptiles or amphibians by their eggs, den, burrows, or other signs.

Toad or Frogs by Voices
1.
2.

OR

Reptile or Amphibian	Identified By
1.	
2.	
3.	

- c. Raise tadpoles from the eggs of some amphibians, or raise adults from tadpoles; or keep an adult reptile or amphibian under conditions that keep it healthy for one month.

Record here what you did:

Requirement 3

Do all the requirements in two of the following fields:

Insects and Spiders:

- a. Catch and identify thirty (30) species.

1.	11.	21.
2.	12.	22.
3.	13.	23.
4.	14.	24.
5.	15.	25.
6.	16.	26.
7.	17.	27.
8.	18.	28.
9.	19.	29.
10.	20.	30.

- b. Collect and mount thirty (30) species.

Show your counselor the mounted collection

- c. Raise an insect from the pupa or cocoon, or raise adults from nymphs, or keep larvae until they form pupae or cocoons; or keep a colony of ants or bees for three months.

Record here what you did:

Requirement 3

Do all the requirements in two of the following fields:

Fish:

- a. Catch and identify four (4) species of fish.

1.
2.
3.
4.

- b. Collect four kinds of natural animal food eaten by fish; or make lure and catch fish with it.

Natural Food Eaten By Fish
1.
2.
3.
4.

OR Make a Lure and Catch Fish

Make a Lure

What kind of fish did you catch with the lure?

- c. Develop a simple aquarium containing fish and plant life and keep it successfully balanced for one month.

Record here what you did:

Requirement 3

Do all the requirements in two of the following fields:

Mollusks:

- a. Identify five species of mollusks and crustaceans (clams, mussels, snails, shrimps, crabs, crayfish).

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

- b. Mount at least six shells.

Show your counselor the mounted collection

- c. Make an aquarium and keep two species of mollusks or crustaceans under such conditions that they stay healthy for one month.

What two species of mollusk or crustacean did you keep?

1.	2.
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Record here what you did:

Requirement 3

Do all the requirements in two of the following fields:

Plants:

- a. Identify in the field fifteen species of wild plants (trees, shrubs, ferns, grasses, mosses, etc.).

1.	6.	11..
2.	7.	12.
3.	8.	13.
4.	9.	14.
5.	10.	15.

- b. Collect and label correctly seeds of six plants; or collect, mount, and label leaves of twelve plants.

Collected Seeds
1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.

OR

Collected and Mounted Leaves	
1.	7.
2.	8.
3.	9.
4.	10.
5.	11.
6.	12.

- c. Build a terrarium of at least three species of plants, and keep it successfully for one month.

Record here what you did:

Requirement 3

Do all the requirements in two of the following fields:

Soils and Rocks:

- a. Collect and identify soils found in three soil profiles; or ten rocks representative of the area.

Soils Collected and Identified
1.
2.
3.

OR

Rock Representative	
1.	7.
2.	8.
3.	9.
4.	10.

- b. Find at least six species of animals that live in soil.

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.

- c. Grow seeds for one month in two kinds of soil, and describe the difference in rate of growth.

What plant seed did you grow? _____

Kind of Soil		
Describe Rate of Growth		

Scout Name _____ Unit # _____ Date _____

Requirement 4

Select one species of plant, mammal, bird, fish, reptile, or amphibian – and from personal observation and reading, write a simple life history (how and where and when it originated, how it grows, what it eats, what eats it, migratory habits if any, its natural home, etc)

Specie Selected: _____

Plant Mammal Bird Fish Reptile Amphibian

How, where, and when it originated:

How it Grows:

What it Eats:

What Eats It:

Migratory Habits:

Natural Home:
