Boy Scout Merit Badge Workshop Registration Information

Strawtown Koteewi Park / Taylor Center of Natural History
12308 Strawtown Ave.
Noblesville, IN 460602
317-984-5556

Registration Information:

Pre-registration is required.

A limited number of spaces are available and registration is on a first-come, first-served basis.

To pre-register or for more information, contact Leslie Nocton at 317-984-5556 or email leslie.nocton@hamiltoncounty.in.gov

What to bring to the Merit Badge Workshops:

- A positive and cooperative attitude
- Water Bottle (filled)
- Sunscreen
- Bug Spray
- Notebook
- Writing Utensil
- Weather appropriate gear (Most of the workshop will run rain or shine, so dress to be outdoors). Scouts don't need to be in uniform.
- Merit Badge Pamphlet for specific badge (available from Boy Scouts of America Scout Shop or www.scoutstuff.org)
- Closed Toed Shoes (no Crocs or flip flops)
- Merit Badge Application (blue card) provided by your Scoutmaster (remember to get his or her approval first)
- Lunch (if indicated in the Badge information)
- Please refer to the official Merit Badge requirements at htttp://www.scouting.org/Boyscouts/Advancemementandawards/Meritbadges/ for more information about specific requirements for each badge.

Notes:

What you should know: Each badge workshop will be hands-on and lead by professionals in the given fields. Merit Badge Counselors will be leading and/or supervising instructional staff. Merit Badge Counselors will be qualified to sign off on the requirements as indicated. Each badge will include a classroom portion and field portion. Prepare to be outside for approximately half of the time allotted for each badge. Each workshop will begin inside the Taylor Center of Natural History.

Drop Off and Pickup: Parents need to escort their Scout into to the Taylor Center of Natural History at the beginning and out at the end of the program. Staff will ensure that the appropriate paperwork is completed (including a Registration Form, Wavier, and Photo Release) and that our staff knows who is authorized to pickup your child in a parent's absence.

Adult Supervision: Parents and/or Troop Leaders or representatives are not required to stay with the Scouts unless otherwise indicated in the individual badge description below. Adults are welcome to stay with their Scouts or at the Taylor Center during the program if needed. If you intend to stay with your Scout, we request that you inform us of your decision in advance.

Staff to Child Ratios: The Taylor Center of Natural History will provide adequate staff to safely and effectively teach the badge and manage the Scouts. We will abide by the American Camp Association staff to child ratios during our programs.

Payments: Payments can be made by cash or check only. When paying by check please make checks payable to HCPR and include your Driver License or Social Security Number in the memo section of the check. Payment must be received no later than the start of the badge workshop.

Cancelations and Refunds: Unfortunately, NO REFUNDS will be made available after a child is paid and registered. If a Scout is unable to attend the workshop for any reason, please contact us as soon as possible. We anticipate having a waiting list for each workshop and will contact another Scout about any vacancies.

*All merit badge workshops require a minimum of 5 scouts participating. If the minimum number is not met, the workshop will be cancelled. In the event of this happening, cash and checks received for registration will be returned. The determination of whether or not a workshop will be canceled will be made three (3) days prior to the first day of the badge.

Overnight Accommodations: Interested Scouts and their families are welcome to contact the White River Campground for information on Scout camping. The campground is located within one mile of Strawtown Koteewi Park and would be convenient place to overnight if needed. Please contact the White River Campground at 317-984-2705.

Minimum: Interested Scouts and their families are welcome to contact the White River Campground for information on Scout camping. The campground is located within one mile of Strawtown Koteewi Park and would be convenient place to overnight if needed. Please contact the White River Campground at 317-984-2705.

Environmental Science Merit Bade

June 5
9:00a to 3:00p
Cost: $5.00

Strawtown Koteewi Park is the perfect place to discover healthy ecosystems in action. Come explore the real life problems and solutions of air, water, and land pollutions. We'll conduct experiments in the field and in the river! Each Scout will need to bring a camera, lunch, and water shoes in addition to the basic workshop information stated before. A small snack will be provided to the scouts attending.

This workshop satisfies requirements: 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3e, 4a

Bird Study Merit Badge

June 11
1:30p-4:30p
Cost: $5.00

Scouts will join a representative from the Amos W. Butler Audubon Society and spend an afternoon learning about the importance of birds in our environment, how to safely study and watch birds, and how to attract them to your yard. Each Scout will need to bring a field guide and a set of binoculars if you have them in addition to the basic workshop information stated before.

This workshop satisfies requirements: 1, 5, 6, 7b; for requirements 2, 3, 4, the information regarding these requirements will be given to the Scouts during the program. It will be up to the Scout to present his understanding of that information to his Scout Leader/Parent.

Mammal Study Merit Badge

June 12
9:00a to 12:00p
Cost: $5.00

Become a detective and learn to identify common mammals of Indiana by examining the clues they leave behind, like their tracks and scat. Get up close to mammal skins and skulls for more clues about diet and habitats. We'll make track casts and a bat box or squirrel feeder to take home.

This workshop satisfies requirements: 1, 2, 3a, 4g, 5

Nature Study Merit Badge

June 18
9:00a to 3:00p
Cost: $5.00

We will hit the trails of Strawtown Koteewi Park to see and identify birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. Find out why these animals are so important to our park and to our great state. Make a bird feeder and track cast to take home. Each Scout will need to bring a lunch to this workshop. A small snack will be provided to the Scouts attending.

This workshop satisfies requirements: 1, 2, 3, 4a, 4b, 4c; for requirement 4a, each Scout will make a bird feeder to take home and must complete the bird list on his own.

Reptile and Amphibian Study Merit Badge

June 19
Cost: $5.00
Day Session, 5:00p to 7:30p: A fun opportunity to meet eight *live* common reptiles and amphibians of Indiana. Discover their unique adaptations and characteristics.

The day program satisfies requirements: 1, 3, 4, 5, 9b, 10

Evening Session, 8:30p to 10:00p: Bring a flashlight and your best singing voice as we go in search of frog calls.

This evening program satisfies requirement 9a.

Orienteering Merit Badge (2 day Badge)

June 25 and June 26
Cost: $5.00
June 25, 9:00a to 12p: If you are new to orienteering, this is a great opportunity to learn basic map reading and compass skills. We'll tackle topography and get hands-on with a beginner orienteering course. Compasses will be available to borrow on a first come, first served basis. If you have a compass, please bring it.

This program satisfies requirements: 3a, 3b, 4a, 4b, 4c, 5

June 26, 10:00a-12p: Put all of your orienteering skills to the test. Strawtown Koteewi Park has set up a cross-country course that will get your feet moving and your compass spinning. Scouts should complete the course as a buddy system or group. Compasses will be available to borrow on a first come, first served basis. Scouts must attend both days to fulfill all the requirements. Leg protection and bug/tick spray is highly recommended. If you have a compass, please bring it.

This program satisfies one of three orienteering events for requirements 7a and 7b.

Astronomy Merit Badge (2 day Badge)

July 6 and 9
Cost: $5.00
July 6, 6:30p to 8:30p: Dan Malone, of the Wabash Valley Astronomical Society, will be assisting the Scouts as we discuss the solar system, constellations, and the hobby of night sky exploration. This program will be indoors.

This program satisfies requirements: 1, 2, 3a, 3b, 3c, 7c, 7d, 8a, 8b, 10

July 9, 10:00p to 1:00a: Hopefully the skies will be clear and the evening will be pleasant as Scouts spend several hours under the stars looking at many amazing sites visible through telescopes in the night sky. An adult is required to accompany every 3-4 Scouts. Please note this program is

not over until 1:00 a.m. This workshop has a rain date scheduled if needed. Scouts must attend both days to fulfill all the requirements.

This program satisfies requirements: 4a, 4b, 4c, 4d, 9b

Geology Merit Badge

July 15
9:00a to 12:00p
Cost: $5.00
Scouts will be instructed and led by Indiana Geological Survey's Walter Gray. Scouts will be introduced to the science of geology and work hands on with geologic specimens.

This workshop satisfies requirements: 1, 2, 3, 4.2, and the Mineral Resources option

Archaeology & Indian Lore Merit Badge (2 day Badge)

July 23 & 24
9:00a to 5:00p
Cost: $5.00
Want to get your hands dirty? Join Archaeologist Craig Arnold and Strawtown staff for a unique opportunity to earn these two merit badges at a real archaeological site in the park. No mock digs here! Learn archaeological methods and practice them in a laboratory. Experience life as a prehistoric Indian; try atlatl and dart throwing and make crafts. Participate in historic preservation firsthand and discover what you can do for the future. Scouts must attend both days to fulfill all the requirements. This program has a rain date scheduled if needed (July 30 and 31). Each Scout will need to bring a lunch to this workshop. A small snack will be provided to the Scouts attending.

This program satisfies the following merit badge requirements;

Archaeology 1-11;

Indian Lore 1, 2, 3, and 4.

Plant Science Merit Badge (2 day Badge)

July 28 and July 29
Cost: $5.00
1:00p-4:00p: Scouts will be instructed by Hamilton County Master Gardner's and Hamilton County Parks Naturalists during this fun, 2 day exploration into plants, and flowers. Plant communities, their benefits, diversity, and growing techniques will be studied and demonstrated. Scouts must attend both days to fulfill all the requirements.

The day program satisfies requirements: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, Option 3