



# Nature

## Merit Badge Requirements

- 1) Name 3 ways in which plants are important to animals. Name a plant that is important to animals that is protected in your state or region, and explain why it is at risk.
- 2) Name three ways in which animals are important to plants. Name an animal that is protected in your state or region, and explain why it is at risk.
- 3) Explain the term "food chain." Give an example of a four-step land food chain and a four-step water food chain.
- 4) Do all the requirements in FIVE of the following fields:

### Birds

- A) In the field, identify eight species of birds.
- B) Make and set out a birdhouse; OR a feeding station; OR a birdbath. List what birds used it during one month.

### Mammals

- A) In the field, identify three species of wild mammals.
- B) Make plaster casts of the tracks of a wild mammal.

### Reptiles or Amphibians

- A) Show that you can recognize the poisonous snakes in your area.
- B) In the field, identify three species of reptiles or amphibians.
- C) Recognize one species of toad or frog by voice; OR identify one reptile or amphibian by eggs, den, burrow or other signs.

### Insects or Spiders

- A) Collect, mount, and label 10 species of insects or spiders.
- B) Hatch an insect from the pupa or cocoon; OR hatch adults from nymphs; OR keep larvae until they form pupae or cocoons; OR keep a colony of ants or bees through one season.

### Fish

- A) Catch and identify two species of fish.
- B) Collect four kinds of animal food eaten by fish in the wild.

### Mollusks and Crustaceans

- A) Identify five species of mollusks and crustaceans.
- B) Collect, mount, and label six shells.

### Plants

- A) In the field, identify 15 species of wild plants.
- B) Collect and label seeds of six plants; OR the leaves of 12 plants

### Soils and Rocks

- A) Collect and identify soils found in different layers of a soil profile.
- B) Collect and identify five different types of rocks from your area.

### NOTE:

In most cases all specimens should be returned to the wild at the location of original capture after the requirements have been met. Check with your merit badge counselor for those instances where the return of these specimens would not be appropriate.

Under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, some plants and animals are or may be protected by federal law. The same ones and/or others may be protected by state law. Be sure that you do not collect protected species.

Your state may require that you purchase and carry a license to collect certain species. Check with the wildlife and fish and game official in your state regarding species regulations before you begin to collect.

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### Requirement 1

Name three ways in which plants are important to animals.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

Name a plant that is important to animals that is protected in your state or region: \_\_\_\_\_

Explain why it is at risk: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Requirement 2

Name three ways in which animals are important to plants.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

Name an animal that is protected in your state or region: \_\_\_\_\_

Explain why it is at risk: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### Requirement 3

Explain the term "Food Chain:" \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Give an example of a four-step land food chain:

- Step 1: \_\_\_\_\_
- Step 2: \_\_\_\_\_
- Step 3: \_\_\_\_\_
- Step 4: \_\_\_\_\_

Give an example of a four-step water food chain:

- Step 1: \_\_\_\_\_
- Step 2: \_\_\_\_\_
- Step 3: \_\_\_\_\_
- Step 4: \_\_\_\_\_

### Requirement 4

You have been given eight fields to choose from for this requirement. Select five fields and complete the tasks for each of the five you selected.

#### *Birds*

Identify eight bird species in the field. List the 8 species of birds that you identified:

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____		

What did you set out for the birds:    Birdhouse    Feeding Station    Birdbath

List what birds used it over a one-month period

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

#### *Mammals*

List the three species of wild mammals that you identified in the field:

_____	_____	_____
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Make plaster casts of the tracks of a wild mammal.

What mammal tracks did you make a plaster cast of? \_\_\_\_\_

#### *Reptiles or Amphibians*

What poisonous snakes in your area are you able to identify?

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

List the three species of reptiles or amphibians that you identified in the field:

_____	_____	_____
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List the species of toad or frog that you were able to identify by voice: \_\_\_\_\_

OR, List the reptile or amphibian that you were able to identify by eggs, den, burrow or other signs: \_\_\_\_\_

#### *Insects or Spiders*

List the 10 species of insects or spiders that you collected, mounted and labeled. Show the collection to your counselor.

_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____		_____	

Scout Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit #: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

You were given four options to choose from for this activity. Select and complete one of them. Which elective did you do to complete this requirement? (Circle the one you completed)

- 1) Hatch an insect from the pupa or cocoon
- 2) Hatch adults from nymphs
- 3) Keep larvae until they form pupae or cocoons
- 4) Keep a colony of ants or bees through one season

Give a brief summary of what your experience: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

***Fish***

What two fish did you catch and identify?

\_\_\_\_\_

List the four types of animal food, eaten by fish in the wild, which you were able to collect:

\_\_\_\_\_

***Mollusks and Crustaceans***

List the five species of mollusks and crustaceans that you were able to identify:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

List the names of the six shells that you collected, mounted and labeled. Show the collection to your counselor.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

***Plants***

List the fifteen species of wild plants that you were able to identify in the wild:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

List the names of the six species of plant seeds OR the twelve plant leaves that you collected and labeled. Show the collection to your counselor.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Scout Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Unit #: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

***Soils and Rocks***

List the types of soils that you found in the different layers of a soil profile:

\_\_\_\_\_

List the five different types of rocks that you collected from your area. Show the rocks to your counselor.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_