

Boy Scout Merit Badge in Archaeology

A program to help Boy Scouts gain understanding and insight of the archaeological process



This program was developed by Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum to familiarize students with the basic concepts behind archaeology and provide them with an in depth understanding of the archaeological processes.

Boy Scouts in this program discuss the basic theory behind archaeology, learning about the goals of archaeology and the intellectual frameworks developed to obtain those goals. The Scouts then participate in hands-on activities to help them gain better understanding of the archaeological process, from research to field then to laboratory.

What JPPM has to offer:

- JPPM has both the archaeological facilities and an archaeology merit badge counselor on staff. Scouts will work closely with park archaeologists to fulfill the field and lab requirements of the Badge.
- JPPM has a research library which can be made available to scouts to help them fulfill the research requirements for the merit badge.
- JPPM staff members can assist Scouts with the experimental archaeology requirement of the Merit Badge. In the Indian Village, Scouts can learn skills such as flintknapping, cordage, pottery, and fire making.
- Scouts participating in a Friday-Saturday session may camp on park property (see fees and requirements below).

Fees and Requirements:

- Scout leaders must call the Education Coordinator at **410-586-8504**, or email kcooper@mdp.state.md.us to reserve a space for their group.
- Groups of no more than **12** Scouts may participate each session.
- Scouts must be supervised by their leaders at all times.
- Cost: \$10.00 per Scout, or \$50.00 minimum. \$5.00 camping fee/Scout (if camping on Park property). Should your group decide to camp at the Park, a community service component will be required.

The staff at Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum is looking forward to another exciting season working with Scouts and their leaders to discover more about Southern Maryland's rich heritage. Come join us!

Archaeology Merit Badge

Requirements

- 1) Tell what archaeology is and explain how it differs from anthropology, geology, paleontology, and history.
- 2) Describe each of the following steps of the archaeological process: site location, site excavation, artifact identification and examination, interpretation, preservation, and information sharing.
- 3) Describe at least two ways in which archaeologists determine the age of sites, structures, or artifacts. Explain the significance of relative dating.
- 4) Do **TWO** of the following:
 - a. Learn about three archaeological sites located *outside* the United States.
 - b. Learn about three archaeological sites located *within* the United States, preferably in the State of Maryland.
 - c. Visit an archaeological site and learn about its significance.
- 5) Choose **ONE** of the research projects you completed for requirement 4 and give a short presentation about your findings to a Cub Scout pack, your Scout troop, your school class, or another group.
- 6) Do the following:
 - a. Explain why it is important to protect archaeological sites.
 - b. Explain what people should do if they think they have found an artifact.
 - c. Describe the ways in which you can be a protector of the past.
- 7) Do **ONE** of the following:
 - a. Make a list of items you would include in a time capsule. Discuss with your merit badge counselor what an archaeologist a thousand years from now might learn from the contents of your capsule about you and the culture in which you live.
 - b. Make a list of the trash your family throws out during one week. Discuss with your counselor what archaeologists finding that trash a thousand years from now might learn from it about you and your family.
- 8) Do **One** of the following:
 - a. Under the supervision of a qualified archaeologist, spend at least eight hours helping to excavate an archaeological site.

- b. Under the supervision of a qualified archaeologist, spend at least eight hours in an archaeological laboratory helping to prepare artifacts for analysis, storage, or display.
 - c. Under the supervision of a qualified archaeologist, spend at least eight hours working in both the field and the laboratory. May be a combination of both activities.
 - d. If you are unable to work in the field or in a laboratory under the supervision of a qualified archaeologist, you may substitute a mock dig. To find out how to make a mock dig, talk with a professional archaeologist, trained avocational archaeologist, museum school instructor, advisor from a local archaeological society, or other qualified instructor. Plan what you will bury in your artificial site to show use of your 'site' during two time periods.
- 9) Under the supervision of a qualified archaeologist or instructor, do **ONE** of the following:
- a. Help prepare an archaeological exhibit for display in a museum, visitor center, school, or other public area.
 - b. Use the methods of experimental archaeology to re-create an item or to practice skills from the past. Write a brief report explaining the experiment and its results.
- 10) Do **ONE** of the following:
- a. Research American Indians who live or once lived in your area. Find out about traditional lifeways, dwellings, clothing styles, arts and crafts, and methods of food gathering, preparation, and storage. Describe what you would expect to find at an archaeological site for these people.
 - b. Research the settlers or soldiers who were in your area at least one hundred years ago. Find out about the houses or forts, ways of life, clothing styles, arts and crafts, and dietary habits of the early settlers, farmers and townspeople who once lived in the area where your community now stands. Describe what you would expect to find at an archaeological site for these people.
- 11) Identify three career opportunities in archaeology. Pick one and explain how to prepare for such a career. Discuss with your counselor what education and training are required, and explain why this profession might interest you.

Visit JPPM to complete your Merit Badge in Archaeology! Merit Badge workbooks will be made available upon arrival for your program!