

Greetings

Get excited! I am sure you are anticipating a fun-filled trip to the Chincoteague Bay Field Station for the Boy Scout Merit Badge Weekend.

If you have not sent in your Health forms please mail it in now. If it is less than two weeks before the program begins bring it with you. They can be found on the Boy Scout page on our website. If you have not made your final payment it is due 30 days before the program begins. Scouts must attend the weekend with a chaperone. Chaperones pay the same price as the scout. Please mail your check or money order to the address below or call in to make your final payment by credit card.

On your day of arrival check-in will be held at the Education Center. This is the large building, with a beautiful glass entry way, located on the corner of Enterprise Street and Mill Dam Road. Please park in front of the building and come into the lobby for registration. When you check-in staff will orient you and direct you to your lodging. You will also receive the updated program schedule. If you are running late on the day the program begins please call the office at [\(757\) 824-5636](tel:7578245636) or the after hour's cell phone at [\(757\) 894-7708](tel:7578947708).

The Merit badges offered the weekend of Sept 4th -7th is the **Environmental Science Merit Badge and the Astronomy Merit Badge**. The Merit badge offered the weekend of Oct 2nd-4th, 2015 is the **Oceanography Merit badge**. The weekend will include most/all of the courses needed to complete these merit badges. There will be a couple of things the scouts will need to do before and maybe afterwards (i.e. an essay or a talk) to complete the badge requirements.

Prerequisites- Environmental Science Merit Badge and Astronomy Merit Badge Sept 4th -7th

Each scout completing the **Environmental Science Merit Badge to complete 2 things before arrival.**

Environmental Science Merit Badge - Scouts will need to do one of the following and bring a written report of the results with them.

1. Look around your home and determine 10 ways your family can help reduce pollution. Practice at least two of these methods for seven days and discuss with your counselor what you have learned.
2. Determine 10 ways to conserve resources or use resources more efficiently in your home, at school, or at camp. Practice at least two of these methods for seven days and discuss with your counselor what you have learned.
3. Perform an experiment on packaging materials to find out which ones are biodegradable. Discuss your conclusions with your counselor.

In addition Scouts completing the Environmental Science Merit Badge must do the following

1. Find out about three career opportunities in environmental science.
2. Pick one and explain how to prepare for such a career.
3. At the program they will give a 3-5 min talk on what education and training are required for the career, and explain why this profession might interest them.

Scouts completing the Astronomy Merit Badge must do the following

1. Sketch the phase and the daily position of the Moon, at the same hour and place, for four days in a row. Include landmarks on the horizon such as hills, trees, and buildings. Note: read the suggested procedure in the guide for best results. Explain the changes you observe. Have fun!

Prerequisites- Oceanography Merit Badge Oct 2nd-4th, 2015

Each scout completing the Oceanography Merit badge will need to bring with them to the program a completed Plankton Net that they make before they come. The directions for how to make one can be found on the Boy Scout page on our website. Scouts will also need to give a presentation to the group about their experience or write a 500 word essay to complete the badge requirement. There will be time at the end of the weekend for scout that wish to do a verbal presentation to present. Scouts that would like to write an essay instead will need to write it and present it afterwards.

Scout must bring blue cards with them, we will fill out the requirements the scout has accomplished at the end of the weekend.

Program cost covers lodging, instruction, meals and materials. During the program, you will be staying in The Chincoteague Bay Field Station's residence hall! This modern facility is organized in residence suites with four bedrooms and two bathrooms per suite. Suites are arranged along an exterior breezeway which creates a bit more privacy for residences. All rooms are bright and comfortable with central heat, and air conditioning. Meals will be delicious and nutritious fare served in the Chincoteague Bay Field Station Dining Facilities.

The schedule that can be found on the Boy Scout page on our website tells you what you can expect during the weekend. The this packet has a list of what you should pack.

Each scout completing the Oceanography Merit badge should be sure to bring lace up boots or sneakers to wear onboard the research vessel. No Croc's, Keen sandals or similar sandal-like clogs. Also make sure to bring plenty of plastic/reusable bags to put your wet clothes and shoes in after fieldtrips. Remember that you must bring your own twin-size bedding, including sheets, pillow and blankets, as well as all of your own toiletries. **Remember to bring your completed Plankton Net with you if you are doing the oceanography merit badge.** Rooms are simple with 2-4 beds and a dresser or cubby unit.

Please be aware of the time that it takes to travel on the Eastern Shore. The speed limit is 35-55 mph for most of the shore. Please allow yourself plenty of time for travel. We are located 2.5 hrs away from Norfolk (in normal traffic). We are 3.5 - 4 hrs away from Washington D.C. For those traveling from the south (Norfolk Area) there is a \$12.00 toll to cross the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel.

SOME HELPFUL NUMBERS

Chincoteague Bay Field Station

Office (8 AM to 4:30 PM): [\(757\) 824 5636](tel:7578245636)

After Hours Emergencies (4:30 PM to 8 AM): [\(757\) 894 7708](tel:7578947708)

Parker McMullen-Bushman: personal cell [\(773\) 426 2738](tel:7734262738) (please only use on Check In day to reach Parker directly)

C. Parker McMullen-Bushman

Adult and Family Education Coordinator

Chincoteague Bay Field Station

34001 Mill Dam Road

Wallops Island VA 23337

[757-824-5636](tel:7578245636)

www.cbfieldstation.org

What to Bring On Your Trip

Please be sure that your scout is adequately prepared for their trip. We have seen students unhappy in the field because they were not wearing appropriate clothing. Participants should be prepared to spend at least two half-day sessions on wet trips.

Essential Items

- Shoes
 - 1 pairs of lace up/ non-mesh sneakers or boots for boat
 - 1 pair of water shoes that secure tightly onto feet
 - 1 pair for dry trips
- Long pants or Short
 - 1 for wet/muddy trips
 - 1 for dry trips
- T-shirts
 - 1 for wet/muddy trips
 - 2+ for dry trips
- Cold weather clothing
 - (sweatshirts, jackets, long sleeves)
- Bathing suit
- Extra towel for wet trips
- Sunscreen
- Dry clothes for evening activities
- Sleeping bag or sheets + blanket, pillow for a twin size bed
- Bath towel, soap, personal toiletries
- Refillable water bottle
- Raingear
- Pencil/pen
- Sunglasses/Hat
- Insect repellent
- Trash bags for laundry



Optional Items

- Binoculars
- Robe
- Camera
- Flashlight
- Alarm Clock
- Shower shoes
- Cards, books → free time
- Money for souvenirs

