



# NATURE MERIT BADGE

MAY HAC - MERIT BADGE FOR SCOUTS BSA

## MERIT BADGE TRACKING

A HomeScouting  
Adventure

The tracking tool below is simply for your own tracking of completion of requirements.

Scouts are encouraged to find a local merit badge counselor to meet, discuss, and sign off on completion of the merit badge, however the HomeScouting Adventure Club will offer limited counseling sessions for Scouts needing a counselor.

Requirement	Completed?
1. Name three ways in which plants are important to animals. Name a plant 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 of the requirements in <b>FIVE</b> of the following fields:	
<b>Birds</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>In the field, identify eight species of birds.</li><li>Make and set out a birdhouse OR a feeding station OR a birdbath. List what birds used it during a period of one month.</li></ul>	
<b>Mammals</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>In the field, identify three species of wild mammals.</li><li>Make plaster casts of the tracks of a wild mammal.</li></ul>	
<b>Reptiles and Amphibians</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Show that you can recognize the venomous snakes in your area.</li><li>In the field, identify three species of reptiles or amphibians.</li><li>Recognize one species of toad or frog by voice; OR identify one reptile or amphibian by eggs, den, burrow, or other signs.</li></ul>	
<b>Insects and Spiders</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Collect and identify either in the field or through photographs 10 species of insects or spiders.* <i>*Photos may be taken with your own equipment or gathered from other sources.</i></li><li>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.</li></ul>	
<b>Fish</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Identify two species of fish native to your area.</li><li>Collect four kinds of animal food eaten by fish in the wild.</li></ul>	
<b>Mollusks and Crustaceans</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Identify five species of mollusks and crustaceans.</li><li>Collect, mount, and label six shells.</li></ul>	
<b>Plants</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>In the field, identify 15 species of wild plants.</li><li>Collect and label the seeds of six plants OR the leaves of 12 plants.</li></ul>	
<b>Soils and Rocks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Collect and identify soils found in different layers of a soil profile.</li><li>Collect and identify five different types of rocks from your area.</li></ul>	
5. Discuss the principle of Leave No Trace and how it relates to nature.	



# NATURE MERIT BADGE

MAY HAC - MERIT BADGE FOR SCOUTS BSA

## MERIT BADGE WORKSHEET

A HomeScouting  
Adventure

Through exploring The Trail inside the ClubHouse for the HomeScouting Adventure Club, complete this worksheet to demonstrate your knowledge of nature. This worksheet will not be turned in and for your own use to demonstrate knowledge.

**Name three ways in which plants are important to animals.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Name a plant that is protected in your state or region, and explain why it is at risk**

Plant = \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Name three ways in which animals are important to plants.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Name a plant that is protected in your state or region, and explain why it is at risk**

Animal = \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Explain the term “food chain”**

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

**Give an example of a four-step land food chain.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
4. \_\_\_\_\_

**Give an example of a four-step water food chain.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
4. \_\_\_\_\_

**Over the next few pages, do all of the requirements in FIVE of the following fields:** birds, mammals, reptiles & amphibians, insects or spiders, fish, mollusks and crustaceans, plants, soil and rocks.

## Birds

In the field, identify eight species of birds.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ **Make and set out a birdhouse OR a feeding station OR a birdbath. List what birds used it during a one-month period.** There is a table at the end of this worksheet you can use to track your observations.

## Mammals

In the field, identify three species of wild mammals.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ **Make plaster casts of the tracks of a wild mammal.**

## Reptiles or Amphibians

How can you recognize the venomous snakes in your area? What are they?

---

---

---

---

# NATURE WORKSHEET

In the field, identify three species of reptiles or amphibians.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ Recognize one species of toad or frog by voice; OR identify one reptile or amphibian by eggs, den, burrow, or other signs. Record your findings below.

---

---

---

## Insects or Spiders

Collect, and identify either in the field or through photographs 10 species of insects or spiders.\*

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ 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.

# NATURE WORKSHEET

## Fish

Identify two species of fish native to your area.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_

Collect four kinds of animal food eaten by fish in the wild. What are they?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

## Mollusks and Crustaceans

Identify five species of mollusks and crustaceans.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

Collect, mount, and label six shells. What are they?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

## Plants

In the field, identify 15 species of wild plants.

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

☐ **Collect and label the seeds of six plants OR the leaves of 12 plants.**

## Soil and Rocks

Collect and identify soils found in different layers of a soil profile. What are they?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

# NATURE WORKSHEET

Collect and identify five different types of rocks from your area. What are they?

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

**How do the Leave No Trace principles relate to nature?**

---

---

---

---

**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 officials in your state regarding species regulations before you begin to collect.



# NATURE WORKSHEET

List what birds used your birdhouse, feeding station, or birdbath for a month. Use the table below to record your findings.

WEEK	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1							
2							
3							
4							