

NATURALIST

Goal of this class is to safely present information so that the adults can plan and present to their youth a program that will enable them to earn the Naturalist Activity Pin and an appreciation of nature within safe boundaries.

I. Backdrop to Activity Pins - similar to merit badges and needed to make advancement. 20 pins broken up into 5 groups of 4 related pins. Naturalist is in the Outdoor Activity Group Badges.

A. It can be the Pin along with Fitness and Citizen that will fulfill requirement 5 to earn the Webelos rank. For earning Arrow of light requirement 3 it can fulfill the elective out of any group requirement.

B. Earning all 20 pins can earn the youth the unofficial "Twentier" Patch.

C. Doing different pin requirements in the same time span. i.e.: Craftsman, Traveler, Geologist, Forester, outdoorsman.

D. Unofficial Pin grid

E. Use expert guest speakers whenever possible. Easier on you, usually better to the kids.

II. Outdoor Code:

As an American, I will do my best to - be clean in my outdoor manners, be careful with fire, be considerate in the outdoors, and be conservation-minded.

III. Requirements: Do what you feel best and are you are able to do.

Requirement 1: Required. To be done after other requirements are completed.

Requirements 2 through 13. Five must be completed.

My favorite is a visit to Monrovia Nature Center which is real close to Camp Trask. Make sure the Nature Center is open. You can accomplish requirement #4, #7 and possibly #6 and #10 on this trip. If this will be over 25 miles from your home it could satisfy part of Traveler requirement #6.

On the left side of the nature center is a fairly easy trail that goes a bit over half mile crossing over a stream that winds up at a slanting water fall. Be prepared for the possibility of getting your feet wet

When going on such a trip make anyplace away from you normal meeting place make sure that you have filed a tour permit. Also now is the time to have the boys acquiring “fanny packs” to keep their ten essentials in which includes a first aid kit and they have a supply of water.

<Handouts for 10 essentials mention Monrovia Nature Center, Deukmajian, Arcadia centers>

Requirement #2 the insect cages can be gotten/ordered though you local council store. If using a coping saw you can accomplish a requirement for craftsman. Crickets can be purchased at a pet store or in my case captured outside your house.

Requirement #3 would suggest terrarium not the aquarium if done for the entire den. Be prepared for a messy den meeting. Plants such as ferns and mosses do better in the terrarium due to the high humidity in the bottle.

Requirement #4 Nature center preferred or LA Zoo (special programs for kids)

Requirement #5 Watch for birds in your neighbor hood. Write them down. Audubon Society has good books for bird identification.

<Exhibits>

Requirement #6 Bird flyways. You can Google Pacific Flyways to find the path and variety of birds coming through our state. Print out and have scouts draw their own maps. A map of California from AAA or others would add interest as to what is near their path.

Requirement #7 Identify poison oak and the types of rattlesnakes in our area - most likely the Diamond Back or Pacific Southwest. <Guest Speaker>

Requirement #8 Find 6 animals in the wild. This is the best reason for

going on a hike. Most often seen items are lizards, birds, and sometimes a deer. Rarely a snake. I have only seen a wild skunk once.

Requirement #10 Google endanger species in California and this can isolate where the specie is located. Often the habitat will indicate why it is in a certain area

Requirement #12. Litter - The youth can look for litter outside of the meeting place an they can discuss why it can be hazardous to wildlife. The plastic 6 pack holders are now gone but can be used as a discussion point. One point of “ litter” they might not think of is