

Fish and Wildlife Management

Merit Badge Workbook

Merit badges are earned by doing: reading the pamphlet, practicing the skills, and showing your counselor what you have learned.
This workbook gives you a place to organize your notes and track your progress along the way.
Merit badge counselors may not require the use of this or any similar workbook.
You still must satisfy your counselor that you can demonstrate each skill and have learned the information.
Use the space under each requirement to note what you have done and what you want to talk about, not to write out full answers.
When a requirement says discuss, show, tell, explain, or demonstrate, that is what you must do.
No one may add to or subtract from the official requirements found on scouting.org (Guide to Advancement 7.0.4.8).
Scouting America last updated this badge's requirements page on May 5, 2026.
Requirements change from time to time. Double-check scouting.org before you start.

Scout's name: _____ Unit: _____ Date started: _____

Counselor's name: _____ Phone no.: _____ Email: _____

Links marked "Scouting America resources" are the ones Scouting America shares on its official badge page.
This workbook is unofficial and not endorsed by Scouting America.

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1. Describe the meaning and purposes of fish and wildlife conservation and management.

Scouting America resources: Managing Fish and Wildlife (video)

What fish and wildlife conservation and management mean

Their purposes

Requirement 1 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

2. List and discuss at least three major problems that continue to threaten your state's fish and wildlife resources.

Scouting America resources: Understanding Threats to F&W Populations (video)

Major problems threatening my state's fish and wildlife

Problem	How it threatens fish and wildlife in my state

Requirement 2 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

3. Describe some ways in which everyone can help with fish and wildlife conservation.

Scouting America resources: Ways Everyone Can Help F&W Conservation (video)

Ways everyone can help

Requirement 3 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

4. List and describe five major fish and wildlife management practices used by managers in your state.

Scouting America resources: Common F&W Management Practices (video)

My state

Five management practices used in my state

Practice	What managers do and why

Requirement 4 completed on counselor initials

5. Do ONE of the following:

☐ **(a)** Construct, erect, and check regularly at least two artificial nest boxes (wood duck, bluebird, squirrel, etc.) and keep written records for one nesting season.

Scouting America resources: Locating Nest Boxes and Managing Them (video)

Box 1: kind and where Date put up

Box 2: kind and where Date put up

Nesting season

My nest box records

Date	Box	What I found

☐ **(b)** Construct, erect, and check regularly bird feeders and keep written records daily over a two-week period of the kinds of birds visiting the feeders.

Scouting America resources: Plastic Bottle Bird Feeder (video)

Kind of feeder _____ Where I put it _____

My daily feeder log

Day	Date	Kinds of birds visiting
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		
7		
8		
9		
10		
11		
12		
13		
14		

☐ **(c)** Develop and implement a fishery improvement project or a backyard wildlife habitat improvement project. Share the results with your counselor.

Scouting America resources: Building a Fish Structure (video)

Fishery or backyard habitat project _____ Where _____

My project plan

What I did, and the results I shared with my counselor

☐ **(d)** Design and construct a wildlife blind near a game trail, water hole, salt lick, bird feeder, or birdbath and take good photographs or make sketches from the blind of any combination of 10 wild birds, mammals, reptiles, or amphibians.

Scouting America resources: DIY Blind (video)

What my blind is near _____ Date built _____

My blind design (draw here or attach)

Animals I photographed or sketched from the blind

#	Animal	Bird, mammal, reptile, or amphibian	Photo or sketch	Date
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				

Requirement 5 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

6. Do ONE of the following:

☐ **(a)** Observe and record 25 species of wildlife. Your list may include mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish. Write down when and where each animal was seen.

My wildlife observation record

#	Species	When I saw it	Where I saw it
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			
7			
8			
9			
10			
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			
21			
22			
23			
24			
25			

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☐ **(b)** List the wildlife species in your state that are classified as endangered, threatened, exotic, non-native, game species, furbearers, or migratory game birds. Discuss with your counselor management practices in place or being developed for at least three of these species.

Scouting America resources: List of State F&W Agencies. Go to You State's Link. (website)

Wildlife species in my state

Classification	Species
endangered	
threatened	
exotic	
non-native	
game species	
furbearers	
migratory game birds	

Management practices for three of these species

Species	Management practices in place or being developed

☐ **(c)** Start a scrapbook of North American fish and wildlife. Insert markers to divide the book into separate parts for mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish. Collect articles on such subjects as life histories, habitat, behavior, and feeding habits on all of the five categories and place them in your notebook accordingly. Articles and pictures may be taken from newspapers or science, nature, and outdoor magazines, or from other sources including the internet (with your parent or guardian's permission). Enter at least five articles on mammals, five on birds, five on reptiles, five on amphibians, and five on fish. Put each animal on a separate sheet in alphabetical order. Include pictures whenever possible.

Scouting America resources: Making a Wildlife Scrapbook (video)

☐ Markers dividing the five parts
☐ Each animal on a separate sheet
☐ Sheets in alphabetical order
☐ Pictures included whenever possible

Articles in my scrapbook

Category	Animals and articles I entered
mammals	
birds	
reptiles	
amphibians	
fish	

Requirement 6 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

7. Do ONE of the following:

☐ **(a)** Determine the age of five species of fish from scale samples or identify various age classes of one species in a lake and report the results.

Scouting America resources: Fish Scales Are Read to Determine Age Class of Species in Fishery (video)

Ages from scale samples (or age classes of one species)

Fish species or age class	What the scale sample showed	Age

My report of the results

☐ **(b)** Conduct a creel census on a small lake to estimate catch per unit effort and report the results to your counselor.

Scouting America resources: A Creel Survey (video)

Lake _____ Dates of my census _____

My creel census

Angler	Hours fished	Fish caught	Species caught

My catch per unit effort estimate, and the results I reported

☐ **(c)** Examine the stomach contents of three fish and record the findings. It is not necessary to catch any fish for this option.

Scouting America resources: Fish Gut Content Analysis (video)

Stomach contents of three fish

Fish	Species	What I found in the stomach
1		
2		
3		

☐ **(d)** Make a freshwater aquarium. Include at least four species of native plants and four species of animal life, such as whirligig beetles, freshwater shrimp, tadpoles, water snails, and golden shiners. After 60 days of observation, discuss with your counselor the life cycles, food chains, and management needs you have recognized. Before completing this requirement, check local laws on releasing these organisms back into the wild, and follow your counselor's direction in disposing of these organisms humanely and safely.

Scouting America resources: Starting a Basic Freshwater Aquarium (video)

Date I set up my aquarium _____ Date of day 60 _____

What lives in my aquarium

Native plant species	Animal species

What I recognized after 60 days

Topic	My notes for my counselor
life cycles	
food chains	
management needs	

☐ Checked local laws on releasing these organisms

☐ Followed my counselor's direction on disposing of them

Requirement 7 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

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8. Identify three career opportunities that would use skills and knowledge by fish and wildlife professionals. Pick one and research the training, education, certification requirements, experience, and expenses associated with entering the field. Research the prospects for employment, starting salary, advancement opportunities and career goals associated with this career. Discuss what you learned with your counselor and whether you might be interested in this career.

Scouting America resources: Fisheries and Wildlife Major, Courses, AND Career Path (video)
Careers and Internships at the USF&WS (website) · 8 Wildlife Management Degree Jobs (website)

Three careers in fish and wildlife

Career	Skills and knowledge it uses

The one I picked

What I researched	What I found
training	
education	
certification requirements	
experience	
expenses	
prospects for employment	
starting salary	
advancement opportunities	
career goals	

Might I be interested in this career? Why or why not

Requirement 8 completed on _____ counselor initials _____

Counselor sign-off

Your counselor signs your blue card or approves the badge in Scoutbook, and your unit records it. This line is for your own records.

Counselor's signature _____ Date completed _____

Official Scouting America resources

Scouting America resources: Fish and Wildlife Management merit badge page (requirements and resources)
Fish and Wildlife Management merit badge pamphlet (free PDF) · All merit badges



Made by Cole at ScoutSmarts.com, an Eagle Scout who loves helping Scouts.
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