

Insect Study Merit Badge Prerequisites

Please complete the following requirements before attending the Insect Study Merit Badge Clinic

5. Do the following:

a. observe 20 different live species of insects in their habitat. In your observations, include at least four orders of insects.

b. Make a scrapbook of the 20 insects you observe in 5a. Include photographs, sketches, illustrations, and articles. Label each insect with its common and scientific names, where possible. Share your scrapbook with your merit badge counselor.

6. Do the following:

a. From your scrapbook collection, identify three species of insects helpful to humans and five species of insects harmful to humans.

b. Discuss the use of integrated pest management vs. chemical methods of insect control. What are the advantages and disadvantages of each?

9. Raise an insect through complete metamorphosis from its larva stage to its adult stage (e.g., raise a butterfly or moth from a caterpillar).*

13. Find out about three career opportunities in insect study. Pick one and find out the education, training, and experience required for this profession. Discuss this with your counselor, and explain why this profession might interest you.

**Some insects are endangered species and are protected by federal or state law. Every species is found only in its own special type of habitat. Be sure to check natural resources authorities in advance to be sure that you will not be collecting any species that is known to be protected or endangered, or in any habitat where collecting is prohibited. In most cases, all specimens should be returned at the location of capture after the requirement is met. Check with your merit badge counselor for those instances where the return of these specimens would not be appropriate.*