



Troop 349

Astronomy Campout

Sky Meadows State Park

13-15 September 2013

We will be working on some of the requirements for the Astronomy Merit Badge as well as some of the Second and First Class orienteering requirements. This is will be a great trip to a beautiful state park.

14 September is public astronomy night and we'll be joining the public and the Northern Virginia Astronomy Club to view the stars. Bring a telescope or pair of binoculars if you have them. We're arranging for a merit badge counselor through NoVAC to be on hand. During the day, we'll be taking some hikes using a map and compass and play an orienteering game.

Planned Activities are as follows:

We'll arrive and make camp Friday night.

Saturday morning, we'll take a five mile hike in groups of 6-10 ,allowing those that haven't done so to have a chance to use a map and compass while they take the hike. We'll also discuss the principles of Leave no Trace. The Second Class requirements we will attempt to fulfill are as follows:

- 1a. Demonstrate how a compass works and how to orient a map. Explain what map symbols mean.
- 1b. Using a compass and a map together, take a five-mile hike (or 10 miles by bike) approved by your adult leader and your parent or guardian.*
2. Discuss the principles of Leave No Trace.

Saturday afternoon, we'll do a shorter 1 mile course which will also have a game included within it. This will be in groups of 4-7. This will fulfill the following First Class Requirements:

1. Demonstrate how to find directions during the day and at night without using a compass.
2. Using a map and compass, complete an orienteering course that covers at least one mile and requires measuring the height and/or width of designated items (tree, tower, canyon, ditch, etc.).

We'll set aside an hour to make plans for celestial observations as well needed for portions of requirement #8. We will also have our dinner a bit earlier than normal for a camp out.

At 6pm, we will go rendez-vous with NoVAC and will make observations from sunset to approximately 10pm. This will be in Class As since we will be joining the public. We can hopefully fulfill the following Astronomy Merit Badge requirements:

4. Do the following:
 - a. Identify in the sky at least 10 constellations, at least four of which are in the zodiac.
 - b. Identify at least eight conspicuous stars, five of which are of magnitude 1 or brighter.
 - c. Make two sketches of the Big Dipper. In one sketch, show the Big Dipper's orientation in the early evening sky. In another sketch, show its position several hours later. In both sketches, show the North Star and the horizon. Record the date and time each sketch was made.

- d. Explain what we see when we look at the Milky Way.
8. With your counselor's approval and guidance, do ONE of the following:
- b. Plan and participate in a three-hour observation session that includes using binoculars or a telescope. List the celestial objects you want to observe, and find each on a star chart or in a guidebook. Prepare an observing log or notebook. Show your plan, charts, and log or notebook to your counselor before making your observations. Review your log or notebook with your counselor afterward.

If a scout has the right kind of equipment, he may also be able to perform the following option:

- e. Personally take a series of photographs or digital images of the movement of the Moon, a planet, an asteroid, meteor, or a comet. In your visual display, label each image and include the date and time it was taken. Show all positions on a star chart or map. Show your display at school or at a troop meeting. Explain the changes you observed.

Sunday will pack up and depart in the morning after breakfast (though there is an option of performing a potential service project).

Schedule of Events

Friday 13 Sep 2013

Time	Event	Remarks
1630	Rally American Legion Parking Lot	Class As
1700	Depart	
1830	Arrive Sky Meadow/Set-up Camp	We'll be hiking in with the gear
1900	Dinner	
2030	Campfire	
2200	Lights Out	

Saturday 14 Sep 2013

Time	Event	Remarks
0700	Reveille	
0730	Breakfast	
0900	Hike w/map & compass	
1200	Return to Camp/Lunch	
1300	Orienteering Course	
1430	Return to Camp/Prep Astronomy Observation Plans	
1630	Dinner	
1800	Join NoVAC for Observation	Class As
2200	Return to Camp	
2230	Lights Out	

Sunday 15 Sep 2013

Time	Event	Remarks
0700	Reveille	
0730	Breakfast	
0900	Break Camp	Hike Out w/gear
1000	Depart	Class As; Service Project could go in the morning and would push departure time out
1130	Arrive American Legion Parking Lot/Unload	
1230	Depart for Home	Mission Complete

Nearest Hospitals

Warren Memorial Hospital

1000 Shenandoah Avenue
Front Royal, Virginia 22630
(540) 636-0300

Fauquier Hospital

500 Hospital Drive
Warrenton, VA 20186
(540) 316-5000

Valley Health Urgent Care

607 East Jubal Early Drive
Winchester, VA 22601
(540) 536-2200

Driving directions to Sky Meadows State Park



**The
American
Legion**
400 N
Oak St
Falls
Church,
VA 22046

- 1. Head south on N Oak St toward Washington and Old Dominion Trail** 0.3 mi
- 2. Turn right onto W Broad St** 0.6 mi
- 3. Continue onto VA-7 W/Leesburg Pike** 0.5 mi
- 4. Take the ramp onto I-66 W** 42.8 mi
- 5. Take exit 23 to merge onto US-17 N/VA-55 W/Winchester Rd toward Delaplane/Paris**
Continue to follow US-17 N/Winchester Rd 6.8 mi
- 6. Turn left onto State Route 710/Edmonds Ln** 0.5 mi



Sky Meadows State Park
11012 Edmonds Ln
White Post, VA 20144

What to Wear:

- Class A shirt, long pants or shorts and belt for trip to and from Camp Tuckahoe.
- Class B shirt, long pants or shorts, belt and hat for hikes on Saturday and Sunday.
- Long, thick socks comfortable for hiking
- Hiking boots or shoes
- An inexpensive watch (preferably with an alarm)
- A day pack containing 2-3 bottles of water, lunch, sunscreen, and personal first aid kit.

Individual Packing List

- Backpack or duffel bag
- Sleeping bag
- Sleeping pad
- Tent for you and your tent-mates

The following items are to be packed inside your backpack or duffel bag:

- Three clean pairs of socks for Saturday, Sunday and an extra
- Three clean underwear for Saturday, Sunday and an extra
- 1-3 Class B shirts
- One long-sleeve shirt
- A sweater or fleece vest for Saturday or Sunday night (no cotton!)
- A rain jacket (and rain pants, if possible)
- Water Filtration/Sterilization if you have it** (*the water onsite is non-potable*)
- A deep bowl, a cup for drinks, and a spork or a spoon & fork

- Three 1-quart/1-liter water bottles
- Flashlight or headlamp (NOTE: *please ensure you have a **flashlight with a red filter**; a white light will be detrimental to everyone's eyesight during astronomical observations.*)
- Compass**
- Money (no more than \$20)
- Sunscreen and lip balm
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Note pad and pen (NOTE: *we'll use these to create the observation plan AND record observations.*)
- Telescope or Binoculars**
- Star Chart** (optional, but would be extremely beneficial)
- Camera (optional, flash must be off at night)

DO NOT BRING RADIOS, CD/MP3 PLAYERS OR VIDEO GAME DEVICES.

EVENT: Sky Meadow Astronomy Campout
LOCATION: Sky Meadow State Park
DATE: 13-15 September 2013

As the parent or legal guardian of _____

I give permission for him to participate in this outing with Troop 349.

I will provide transportation: Out Back Both Ways

Including Driver my vehicle holds _____ people

Name(s) of Parent(s) planning to attend:

_____ Cell #: _____

_____ Cell #: _____

My Scout understands travel will be in Class A Uniform and no electronics are permitted.

Funds Attached (\$40/Scout & \$25/Adult for food mileage, and Scout fees)

I give permission to the leaders of Troop 349 to render first aid. In the even of emergency, I give permission to the physician selected by the adult leader-in-charge, to hospitalize, order anesthesia, order injection, or secure other medical treatment, as s/he determines to be appropriate. I further agree to hold Troop 349 and its leaders blameless for any mishaps that may occur during this outing, except for clear acts of negligence or non-adherence to BSA policies and guidelines.

In case of emergency, I can be reached at _____ or _____

If I cannot be reached contact _____ at _____

Medical Insurance Company: _____ Policy # _____

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My son:

- Has the following medical conditions that adult leaders must be aware:

- Has no medical condition.

- Has the following medication(s) that adult leaders must supervise and assist in administering (also provide time(s) and quantity):

- Takes no Medication

Signed: _____ (Parent/Guardian)

Date: _____