

## **Astronomy**

Learn how activities in space affect own planet and bear witness to the wonders of the night sky: the nebulae, or giant clouds of gas and dust where new stars are born; old stars dying and exploding; meteor showers and shooting stars; the moon, planets, and a dazzling array of stars. People have been looking towards the sky since the beginning of time and wondering what's up there. Now you can discover what it is.

Bring the Astronomy Merit Badge pamphlet that you read, a merit badge worksheet, and a scoutmaster signed merit badge card. Bring gear for a 3-hour star party. Depending on the weather, consider bringing long sleeved shirt, long pants, socks, shoes or boots, jacket, hat and gloves, bug spray, red lens flashlight, ground cloth, pillow, and blanket.

The course is limited to 10 participants.

The course will go over some astronomy requirements in the day, then after dark we will have a star observation party. If the skies are clear, we should be able to complete all requirements except 6a and 6b.

Requirements 4a, 4b, and 5d are dependent on clear skies. The sketches in 4c could be done before the course.

Requirement 6a is a sketch of the moon. This course is scheduled during the new moon when the moon is not visible at night. You should observe a full moon about two weeks before the course.

Requirement 6b requires you to observe and sketch the moon relative to its surroundings for four nights within a one-week period. Do this before the course and bring your sketches.

Requirement 7c is identifying different color stars. This is weather dependent; you could observe these before the course.

Requirement 8 has five options. We can do 8b, 8c, or 8e. It's your choice.

Requirement 9 is about three career opportunities in astronomy. This should be researched before the course.

Filling some requirements in the Astronomy workbook prior to the course will help complete requirements that can't be completed at camp. The workbook is available at: <http://usscouts.org/mb/worksheets/Astronomy.pdf>