

College of Wilderness Knowledge

Course in Bird Study

Since time began, mankind has observed birds, and has learned from them how we all interact with our natural world and climate. At Birch Bend we have 4 distinct habitats in which to view birds; woodland, open fields, shoreline and wetlands. The course is designed to fulfill the field study requirements of the merit badge, but the counselor will be available to work in town to fulfill other requirements. Completion is sometimes subject to weather conditions and migratory patterns.

Prerequisites:

Students will be expected to have acquired and read the BSA Bird Study guide, and to bring it to camp. Also, it will be expected each student will have a pair of binoculars and a bird study field guide or be able to share with another student. A notebook and pad would also be helpful.

Course will begin approx. 8:00 a.m. Saturday morning, with a brief discussion, preceded by a 2-hour field hike that will take us through all 4 major habitats at Birch Bend. After an agreed upon break, counselor will meet with scouts and quiz students on other requirements in the guidebook, including care of binoculars and how birds relate to their environment. There will also be discussion on what was observed on the morning hike.

If some field requirements are not met on Saturday due to unforeseen circumstance, Sunday may be used if time permits. What should be kept in mind is that with this merit badge, success is difficult without enthusiasm for the subject matter.