

## **College of Wilderness Knowledge Course in Indian Lore**

**Where held:** The course in Indian Lore is generally taught at the Mille Lacs Indian Museum and the Birch Bend Campground. There is an admission fee to the museum which is generally covered by the CWK. Troops may voluntarily pay for the cost if they wish. IF you have a Minnesota Historical Membership, bring your membership card with you.

**What is provided?** The materials for making the models of the dwellings, and worksheets to record the gathered information on will be provided.

**What to Bring:** Bring a pencil, notebook or paper and Indian Lore merit badge pamphlet or book. The instructor will have some books available for those who do not own one.

The students are encouraged to read the pamphlets or book before coming to the course

CWK uses the resources of Mille Lacs Indian Museum and the Birch Bend Campground in teaching the Indian Lore course.

The participants are given worksheets to complete and record the information they gather and learn. The following lessons are included in the course:

### **INDIAN LORE**

1. The course participants will visit the Mille Lacs Indian Museum. The Museum staff gives an oral presentation of lifestyles and history of the Anaishabe/Ojibawae Indians, while in the four seasons room. Topics include information about traditional dwellings, way of life, tribal government, religious beliefs, family and clan relationships, language, clothing styles, arts and crafts, food preparation, means of getting around, games, customs in warfare, where members of the group now live, and how they live. The participants record what they have learned on the worksheets/passports provided by the College of Wilderness Knowledge.

Following the half hour presentation in the Four Seasons Room, the participants are free to explore the museum on their own and work with the museum staff to participate in and/or do the following activities:

- Learn three games played by a group or tribe taught by the museum staff. They will teach and lead one game with a Scout group after returning to Birch Bend Campground.
- Learn how a specific Indian group traditionally hunted, fished, or trapped and Give a demonstration to their unit or another Scout group.

- Learn in an Indian language at least twenty-five common terms and their meanings.

The students/participants make an authentic model of a dwelling used by any Indian tribe, group, or Nation after returning to Birch Bend and visit a museum to see Indian artifacts. The students discuss them with their counselor. They also identify at least ten artifacts by tribe or nation, their shape, size, and use.

The following are the activities which are usually completed by the participants during the Indian Lore course weekend.

Give the history of one American Indian tribe, group, or nation that lives or has lived near you. Visit it, if possible. Tell about traditional dwellings, way of life, tribal government, religious beliefs, family and clan relationships, language, clothing styles, arts and crafts, food preparation, means of getting around, games, customs in warfare, where members of the group now live, and how they live.

Make an authentic model of a dwelling used by any Indian tribe, group, or nation. Visit a museum to see Indian artifacts. Discuss them with your counselor. Identify at least ten artifacts by tribe or nation, their shape, size, and use.

Write or briefly describe how life would have been different for the European settlers if there had been no Indians to meet them when they came to this continent.

Learn three games played by a group or tribe. Teach and lead one game with a Scout group.

Learn in an Indian language at least twenty-five common terms and their meanings.

Write or tell about eight things adopted by others from American Indians.

Most or almost all the participants complete enough **activities to meet the requirements of the Boy Scout Indian Lore merit badge.**