



(Final Patch Design)

Metropolitan District
Spring Merit Badge Weekend 2024
Leader's Guide and FAQ

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT SPRING MERIT BADGE WEEKEND

MARCH 15-17

CAMP VERDUGO OAKS

38001 Golden State Hwy, Castaic, CA 91384



Welcome to the Metropolitan District Spring Merit Badge Weekend and Camporee at Camp Verdugo Oaks. Scouts may get up to two nights of camping (Friday and Saturday) at this beautiful, forested scout camp near Lake Castaic (about a one-hour drive), or come for the day on Saturday.

Scouts will camp and cook with their troops since this event is in place of the Spring camporee. Individual scouts may come for the day for merit badges classes but unfortunately we cannot accommodate single campers. If coming for the day, you must bring your own lunch.

Cost of \$40 per person includes camping fees (one or two nights) and merit badges OR \$25 day fee includes merit badges. Adults are \$40 for overnight camping or \$10 for a day pass if accompanying a scout.

When signing up for this event on the Greater Los Angeles Area Council website, when checking out you need to add each Scout's name, rank, and choice of either ONE all-day merit badge or up to TWO half-day merit badges. Classes will fill up fast so sign up early to get your first choices!

All-day merit badge is 8:30am to 5:30pm with a one-hour lunch break.

Half-day merit badges are either 8:30-12:30 or 1:30-5:30.

All-Day Merit Badge:

First Aid (prerequisite: First Class rank)

Half-Day Merit Badges:

(choose up to two)

Sustainability

Soil & Water Conservation

Orienteering (afternoon only)

Geocaching

Pioneering

Photography

Signs, Signals and Codes

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Weekend Camping – Campsites will be designated by Troop at the time of check-in. Potable water and flush toilets are available. Leave No Trace and proper food storage protocols should be followed at all times (see camp rules next page).

Cooking/Meals – It is each Troop's responsibility to provide all meals and snacks for themselves. Each Troop is responsible for the cleanliness of their campsite and for packing away their own trash after the event.

Dishwashing – All dish washing should be done at the wash station outside the dining hall, not in the campsites or in the bathrooms.

Adults – We are asking each participating Troop to provide at least one adult for the morning and afternoon merit badge sessions to help oversee the sessions and provide full coverage.

Medical Forms – Every Scout and Scouter in attendance must have a completed BSA Annual Medical Form Part A and Part B. Part C requiring a doctor's exam is NOT required for this weekend event.

Check-in information

- If you are camping:

Leaders for each troop must let us know in advance when you plan to arrive, i.e. which day and what time. We must know how many scouts will be in camp Friday night vs. those coming on Saturday.

- If you are coming for the day on Saturday or arriving Saturday for camping:

For the morning Merit Badge session on Saturday, please plan to arrive no later than 8:00am so you have time to check-in and get to your class location by 8:30am.

For the afternoon Merit Badge session on Saturday, please plan to arrive no later than 1:00pm so you have time to check-in and get to your class location by 1:30pm.

2024 Spring Merit Badge Weekend General Rules

The Scout Law, Scout Oath, Outdoor Code and principals of Leave No Trace must be followed at all times.

Once registered, no youth are allowed to leave the camporee without the permission of their unit leader.

All trash will need to be put in the dumpsters nightly. It is recommended to secure food in cars at night.

Potable Water and Flush Toilets are both available on site.

Fires will not be allowed at the campsites. **Only camp stoves are allowed.**

All participants should be respectful of any designated private property or closed areas.

Uniforms – Scouts and Scouters should be in Class A uniform for merit badge classes, flags, and Scout's Own. Class B utility uniform may be worn at meals or for other activities.

Important Camp Rules

These are general rules for Camp Verdugo Oaks:

1. No digging or disruption of natural structures. Camp Verdugo Oaks is located on Native American tribal land.
2. Remember that camp is a wild area. We have rattlesnakes and sometimes wild visitors such as deer, bear, raccoons, squirrels, etc. Proper food storage protocols must be followed!
3. Fires will not be allowed at the campsites. **Only camp stoves are allowed.** Any other fires (including the amphitheater and the charcoal grill area at the lodge) are only with the permission of, and at the discretion of, the Campmaster.
4. Fire conditions change and the Campmaster will advise of those conditions when you check in.
5. Notify the Campmaster of anyone arriving or leaving camp after check in. The group leader must meet with the Campmaster for check out.
6. All camp facilities should be tidy and trash disposed of properly.
7. All vehicles must be parked **facing the road** you come in on. Trailers may be driven on to property for loading and unloading only, then parked in the parking lot.
8. The onsite Campmaster is the final call on all areas and usages of camp. The Campmaster is entrusted to always put safety first, as well as respecting the grounds as part of the Forest Service. When in doubt, ask the Campmaster - what he or she says, goes.

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY, March 15, 2023

6:00pm	Check In
8:30pm	Leaders Meeting (1 adult/SPL) – Zoom Link will be provided on registration
10:00pm	Scouts in Camp
10:30pm	Lights Out
11:00pm	Quiet Time

SATURDAY, March 16, 2023

7:00am	Reveille/Breakfast
8:00am	Clean-Up/Late Check-In
8:15am	Flags
8:30am - 12:30pm	Morning Merit Badge Session
12:30pm - 1:30pm	Lunch
1:30pm - 5:30pm	Afternoon Merit Badge Session
6:00pm	Dinner
8:00pm	Campfire
9:00pm	End Campfire
9:00pm	Astronomy activity. Tentative Telescopes
10:30pm	Lights Out
11:00pm	Quiet Time

SUNDAY, March 17, 2023

6:30am	Scout's Own Sunrise Service
7:00am	Reveille/Breakfast
8:30am	Flags
9:00am	Clean-up campsites
10:00am	Check out (or earlier once your campsite has been inspected/approved) and receive patches

Merit Badge Instructions and Pre-requisites

For all merit badge sessions, you should bring a copy of the merit badge book, and a blue card that has been signed by your unit leader. Additional information from each counselor:

First Aid:

- Review all First Aid material in both the Scoutbook and pamphlet. Scouts are expected to be prepared to discuss and explain.
- Zoom call with counselor in the week prior to class will be arranged with all participants
- Bring your personal First Aid Kit. (Req. 5a)
- Complete requirement 5b in advance.

Sustainability

- Bring a copy of the merit badge book, paper and pen or pencil. This is a half-day class, but additional research and writing will be required at home after the class, and a follow-up zoom meeting with the counselor will be required to complete the merit badge.

Geocaching:

- With your parent's permission, complete requirement 7. Bring a GPS device if you have one, or your phone.
- To save time in camp, you could print the workbook and complete requirements 1 and 2 in advance.

Orienteering:

- You will have an easier time completing this badge in one day if you have completed Second Class 3 and First Class 4a. Review the information on Orienteering and Navigation in the Scout handbook, and in the merit badge book.
- You need to bring with you:
 - The Merit Badge book. Buy or borrow.
 - Paper, pen, and pencil
 - A 12" ruler
 - A scout compass (a limited number of compasses will be available for use)
 - A day-pack with your 10 essentials
 - Completed blue card signed by your unit leader.

Photography:

- Prerequisite is Cyber Chip. Your Scoutmaster's signature on the blue card indicates that you have completed this prerequisite.
- Print and bring a copy of the workbook.
- Bring a camera or your phone with you. Morning class is phone cameras only; afternoon class is DLSR only.

Pioneering:

- No prerequisites, but it is best if you are familiar with the knots covered in Trail to First Class.

Signs, Signals and Codes:

- Read the merit badge book, or do your own research, so you can intelligently discuss requirements 1 and 10.

Soil and Water Conservation

- Read the merit badge book. Bring a copy of the workbook, and pen or pencil.

Campsite Safety Review and Inspection

Unit Number_____	
Inspectors: Names and Troop_____	
<u>1. General Campsite Condition: maximum score: 25 points</u>	
Troop Identified with sign	5
Gateway in use	2
U.S. flag and troop flag properly displayed	5
Campsite layout shows Patrol method in use	3
Tents pitched to avoid water run-off, potential blow-down	5
Recycling of cardboard, cans, etc. evident Duty roster and menu posted	5
<u>2. Scout Safety: maximum score: 25 points</u>	
Adequate drinking water available at all times	10
Leaders have access to Scout medical information, medical form with permission to treat for each Scout at event.	5
First aid kit properly equipped and readily available in site.	10
<u>3. Campsite Health and Safety: maximum score: 50 points</u>	
Campfire area bare to mineral soil, nothing flammable within safe distance, 2 filled fire buckets available	N/A
If propane is used, tanks and hoses are secure and protected	10
Provisions made for hand washing, soap/water available	5
Dish washing station evident with 3 container system wash, rinse, and sanitize containers, with a screen and wastewater container	20
Food properly stored to prevent animal problems and spoilage	5
Camp tools, axes and saws properly secured, sheaths in place	5
Waste water, grease sump pit in use with filter to catch particles	NA
Site clean, no litter obvious, plan in place to carry-out trash	5

FAQ

Q: Can I earn merit badges just by showing up for this weekend?

A: No. You must do the work and earn the badge. In some cases you will need to do field work in camp or complete other requirements to the satisfaction of the merit badge counselor. All of the merit badges offered (except Sustainability) can be completed in one day, but that's no guarantee. We strongly recommend that in all cases you read the merit badge book (not just the requirements) ahead of time, and be prepared with pen and paper or any other materials you think you might need.

Q: May I bring my Cub Scout?

A: No. The activities are not designed for Cub Scouts and managing them and supervising them could take away from the older youth program. Older Webelos may join a troop with proper supervision.

Q: Do I register and pay for adults?

A: Yes, a larger portion of the cost of the camporee is the camp fee and patch. The district gets charged for adults to be on site.

Q: What do I need to do for Covid protocols?

A: Follow CDC and your own Charter Organization and Troop protocols. There are no specific GLAAC guidelines at this time.

Q: Are there bears and do we have to worry?

A: There are bears but they will leave you and your campsite alone if you are clean and do not leave food or food particles around. Lock food in your car at night. Make sure to keep your campsite and dishes clean. Use the buddy system.