March 25, 2023
Texas Fin-Fur-Con
Merit Badge University
FAQ's

Location **Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center**
5550 FM 2495,
Athens, TX 75752
Located at Lake Athens, approx. 75 miles SE of Dallas

MBs offered focused on wildlife and conservation

1. Archaeology
2. Archery
3. Bird Study
4. Energy
5. Environmental Science*
6. Fish and Wildlife Management
7. Fishing
8. Fly Fishing
9. Forestry
10. Geocaching
11. Geology
12. Insect Study
13. Landscape Architecture
14. Mammal Study
15. Nature
16. Orienteering
17. Pioneering
18. Plant Science
19. Reptile and Amphibian Study
20. Soil and Water Conservation
21. Sustainability*
22. Weather
23. ***Trail to First Class***
24. ***3-Hour Conservation Project (Life Scout Req. #4)***

* Eagle Required, but only one of these two MBs may be counted as Eagle-required; the other may be also used for Eagle (or other) rank.

Times Saturday, March 25, 2023, All day event

- Check in opens: 7:30 am
- Morning session starts: 9:00 am to 12:00 noon.
- BBQ lunch served: 12:15 noon
- Afternoon Session: 1:30 to 4:30 pm
- Free time: 4:30 – 5:00 pm
- Cracker Barrel snack: 4:30 pm

What is included $20 youth participant fee covers a 3-hour morning session, BBQ lunch, a 3-hour afternoon session, cracker barrel snack at the closing, and a cool event patch. All others may purchase an optional $10 meal ticket. Staff is free.

Registration Via https://www.scoutingevent.com/571-2023tffc Scout participants register for only $20. Leaders and guests may purchase an optional $10 meal ticket.

Participant limit First 400 paid youth registrations, plus 150 additional leader, staff & visitor meal tickets. MBs are limited to anywhere from 5 to 16 participants per session. It depends on the MB. Trail to First Class is limited to 40 participants.

Family Visitors Family members and guests are encouraged to attend with their Scouts. There is a lot to see and do at the TFFC. Regular admission is $5.50 for adults, $4.50 for seniors 65 and older, and $3.50 for children ages 4 through 12.

Meal Ticket Leaders & visitors have the option to purchase a $10 BBQ meal ticket served at the dining hall, bring their lunch, or eat separately in town.

Staff Meal Ticket Staff meal is complimentary.

Who is cooking BBQ catering by Danny's Smokehouse of Athens. If you don't care for BBQ, please bring your own lunch.

What else to do in Athens Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center, East Texas Arboretum, movie theatre, antique & art shopping on the town square, day spas.

Where to Park Please park in the Bus/RV parking area on the west side of the TFFC or in the overflow parking area on the south side of the TFFC off Peninsula Point Drive, CR 4812.

Where to check in The Scout check-in desk will be located at the main entrance on the north side of the facility. The check-in procedure is by Unit, where the Unit Leader will be handed a packet for that unit's registered participants.

Uniform BSA "class A" field uniform or "class B" required.

What to bring **BSA Annual Health & Medical Record (physical) Part A & B**, water bottle, Camp Chair, hat, sunscreen, MB work materials, your own fishing gear (must be inspected for barbless hooks) or use the free gear provided by the TFFC.

Homework	The scouts should have read the requirements of the badges they are taking beforehand and at least be familiar with the subject.
Session times	There will be two sessions: a 3-hour morning session and a 3-hour afternoon session. Scouts will have the option to work on 2 MBs or a morning beginner and afternoon intermediate Trail to First Cass. The MBs and Trail to First class are offered as two separate morning and afternoon sessions. So, Scouts can do the courses in any combination they choose. The following are examples. • Energy MB morning session, - Geology MB afternoon session • Trail to first Class beginner morning session, - Trail to first Class intermediate afternoon session • Forestry MB morning session, - Trail to first Class intermediate afternoon session
Partial & Completed MBs	Some MB requirements can usually be completed in a 3-hour session, but this will be up to the MB Counselor/instructor teaching it and the Scout's leaders back at the unit. Some merit badges ("MB") will be complete where others will be partial and can be finished later. We focus on the practical requirements that are difficult to complete back home.
Prerequisites	None of the classes have Prerequisites. Exception is the 3-hour conservation project which requires "While a Star Scout…"
3-hour Conservation Project	This work session at the TFFC will satisfy the Life Scout requirement: #4. While a Star Scout, participate in six hours of service through one or more service projects approved by your Scoutmaster. At least three hours of this service must be conservation-related.
Where to Camp	Nearby (5-minute drive) tent camping is available for this event. Clements Scout Camp (TRJ) is only 15 minutes away. Purtis Creek State Park is only 20 minutes away. Regrettably, there is no camping at the TFFC or tent camping at Lake Athens Marina. The Marina only offers RV camping.
Fishing MB requirements	Special arrangements have been made with the TFFC so that Scouts working on Fishing & Fly Fishing MBs may catch, clean and cook their fish. Fishing gear will be provided if you don't have your own. The Dallas Fly Fishing Club members will be providing instructors to help out.
Eagle Required MBs	Both Environmental Science and Sustainability will be offered but only one of these may be counted as Eagle required. The other may still be counted towards Eagle (or any other) rank

Report via “Black Pug”	Completed MB work will be recorded in “Black Pug” where it will be reported back to the Units for approval. We will provide progress reports via the Circle Ten “Black Pug” computer program as proof to each Scout’s unit that various Scouting requirements have been met. Progress reports will be generated for each Scout participant, then forwarded to that Scout’s unit. Blue Cards will not be provided at this event. It is up to the Unit to accept these progress reports.
Event Info:	taner.scot.lynd@gmail.com for event information.
Registration problems:	houston.miller@scouting.org for Circle Ten “Black Pug” problems.

MB Counselor & Staff Assignments – We need at least 50 adult staff members. Send Chip.Perryman@Gmail.com an email with your 1 to 3 choices ranked in order of preference. We will try to assign you to your first choice. We will need at least one BSA registered MB counselor for each of the 22 MBs, 4 instructors for Trail to First Class, 10 event commissioners for check-in and other staff duties plus lots of kitchen help with the catered BBQ.