

Historic Huntley | Huntley Meadows Park

Genealogy

- This program lasts 3 hours.
- In class covers requirements 1, 4ab & e, 6, 7, 8, 9
- **Pework covers requirements 2, 3, 5.**
- Please bring your **authorized blue card**, snack, drink, and merit badge workbook.

Important information about how to prepare for a merit badge program at Huntley Meadows Park.

Parents, please review the content of a merit badge prior to registering your scout: some badges may be challenging for younger scouts. Also, the class discussions are more interesting if scouts review *all* the requirements for the badge before the program. The chances of your scout completing all the work for the badge increases dramatically when he is properly motivated and the badge content is age-appropriate.

Merit badges are not designed to be completed in a day and require independent work on the part of the scout outside of the workshop. We call this PREWORK. We suggest this is done prior to the badge program date, but we realize this is not always practical or possible, in these cases we will sign partial cards and accept the assignments after the program.

Merit badge programs can be from 3 to 5 hours long, so be sure to pack a snack and water for your scout and that he is dressed appropriately for being outdoors for some or all of the program.

Though not required, Scout workbooks are very useful and we prefer that scouts use the workbook during the program. Workbooks can be found at:

http://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Merit_Badge_Worksheets .

WE DO NOT HAVE BLUE CARDS. Please bring an **authorized** blue card with you to the program. Your troop scout master should be consulted prior to attending any merit badge program and he or she will sign the front of the card.

Requirements

The following is what we will be doing during the Genealogy badge, if it is in **RED** it is prework!

1. Do EACH of the following:
 - a. Explain to your counselor what the words genealogy, ancestor and descendant mean.
 - b. Explain what a family tree is and what information would be kept there.
 - c. Explain what a family group record is and what information would be kept there.
2. Do ONE of the following:
 - a. **Create a time line for yourself or for a relative. Then write a short biography based on that time line.**
 - b. **Keep a journal for six weeks. You must write in it at least once a week.**
3. **With your parent's help, choose a relative or a family acquaintance you can interview in person, by telephone, or by email or letter. Record the information you collect so you do not forget it.**
4. Do EACH of the following:

- a. Name three types of physical genealogical resources, where you can find them, and explain how these resources can help you chart your family tree.
 - b. Name three types of digital genealogical resources, where you can find them, and how these resources can help you chart your family tree.
 - c. Obtain at least one genealogical document that supports an event that is or can be recorded on your pedigree chart or family group record. **Be sure to bring this document with you to use to complete requirements.**
 - d. Tell how you found it and how you would evaluate the genealogical information you found for requirement 4c.
 - e. Tell a likely place to find these type of genealogical records: marriage record, census record, birth record, and burial information.
5. Contact ONE of the following individuals or institutions. Ask what genealogical services, records, or activities this individual or institution provides, and report the results:
- a. A genealogical or lineage society
 - b. A professional genealogist (someone who gets paid for doing genealogical research)
 - c. A surname organization, such as your family's organization
 - d. A genealogical educational facility or institution
 - e. A genealogical record repository of any type (courthouse, genealogical library, state or national archive, state library, etc.)
6. Begin your family tree by listing yourself and include at least two additional generations. You may complete this requirement by using the chart provided in this pamphlet or the genealogy software program of your choice.
7. Complete a family group record form, listing yourself and your brothers and sisters as the children. On another family group record form, show one of your parents and his or her brothers and sisters as the children. This requirement may be completed using the chart provided or the genealogy software program of your choice.
8. Do the following:
- a. Explain the effect computers and the internet are having on the world of genealogy.
 - b. Explain how photography has influenced genealogy.
 - c. Explain how record indexing works and how that has influenced genealogy.
9. Discuss what you have learned about your family and your family members through your genealogical research

RESOURCES:

This is the Fairfax County Library's website for genealogical research. Click on the menu in black on the left to find information about online databases and websites, books, organizations and events.
[About this Guide - Genealogy - FCPL Curated Content at Fairfax County Government](#)

The Fairfax Genealogical Society – Has lists of research resources.
[Welcome to the Fairfax Genealogical Society \(fxgs.org\)](#)

SAMPLE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Because every individual is unique and every interviewer has his or her own special interests and research goals, there is no single set of questions that will fit every situation. The following are some that might help guide an interview with a relative or community member about family folklore.

Pick and choose among the suggested questions below to suit your own interests. Select about 5 questions.

You can always ask more questions, but you'll find that most people enjoy sharing their stories and the interview can quickly become quite long and may cover many of the topics below.

Feel free to change the wording as you see fit or ask completely different questions. Ultimately, the most useful questions will be those that you develop based on your knowledge of your own family and/or community. Be flexible and have fun!

Biographical Questions

What is your name?

Where and when were you born?

Where did you grow up?

Where have you lived?

What jobs have you had?

What do you do for a living now?

What are some of your childhood memories?

What games did you play when you were a child?

Did you sing verses when you played games?

What were they?

What kinds of toys did you play with?

Family Folklore

Do you know any stories about how your family (you) first came to the United States?

Where did they first settle? Why?

How did they make a living?

Did your family stay in one place or move around?

How did they come to live in this area?

What traditions or customs have you made an effort to preserve? Why?

Are there traditions that you have given up or changed? Why?

How did your parents, grandparents, and other relatives come to meet and marry?

How are holidays traditionally celebrated in your family?

Huntley Meadows Park

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