

## 2010 Ecology/Conservation Programs

The Ecology/Conservation Area at Camp Bonner offers the following merit badge programs: Archaeology, Astronomy, Environmental Science, Fish & Wildlife Management, Fishing & Fly Fishing, Forestry, Geology, Nature, Oceanography, Reptile and Amphibian Study, Soil and Water Conservation, Space Exploration, and Weather.



The **Fishing/Fly Fishing MB** class will meet for three hours and the scouts will complete both Fishing Merit Badge and Fly Fishing Merit badge. Scouts must be at least a Beginner according to the BSA swim test in order to take these merit badges. Scouts will also need to attend a twilight session on Thursday at 6:30 so that they can clean and cook their fish. If scouts bring fishing poles for Fishing merit badge or for recreational fishing, they can bring the pole to the nature lodge for safe keeping during the week.

All scouts working need to bring pen and paper every day to class. This is for drawings, journals, notes, and required essays.



Scouts taking **Environmental Science** must be a First Class Scout to participate.

Scouts working on **Space Exploration Merit Badge** may purchase a rocket kit from the trading post. The cost for kits run from \$4.00 to \$10.00. Scouts will also need a ticket for their rocket engines which are \$4.00. If a scout brings his own rocket & engines to camp, the engines must be turned in to the Ecology/Conservation Director during check-in.

Scouts taking **Astronomy Merit Badge** will need to meet at the main parking lot at 8:30 p.m. on Wednesday night to attend a night observation session. The session will be over by 9:45 p.m.

Partial Completion: Requirements that cannot be completed at Camp Bonner

- Reptile & Amphibian Study.....8c
- Forestry .....5a
- Astronomy.....5b, 6, 7b



**Conservation Service Projects**

Scouts, patrols and troops who would like to participate in conservation service projects have the opportunity to do so while at camp. Our Ecology/Conservation Area has a list of projects that troops may complete while at camp. These projects are a good way to work on requirement #4 of the Second Class, Star, and Life ranks. For more information on these projects, please see our Ecology/Conservation Director anytime while at camp.



## Recycling Program

Camp Bonner recycles aluminum cans. Please deposit cans into the appropriate receptacles along the trail. If you separate aluminum cans in your campsite, bring your bags of cans to the nature lodge. We will recycle them for you. The recycling program has also expanded to include plastic bottle per the new North Carolina state law. Please put all plastic bottles into appropriate bins or bring them to the Ecology area.



## Nature Trails

Camp Bonner has two nature trails available.

- The Robert L. Wolff Nature Trail begins in the Ecology-Conservation area and crosses through mixed temperate forest, cypress swamps, and the nature beach area. Guidebooks are available at the nature lodge for those wishing to complete the self-guided trail. Scouts must be accompanied by an adult or staff member at all times on the nature trail.
- The Tree-Ring Trail is a tree identification trail that follows the main camp road and walking trails through camp. Twenty-five different species of trees, plants and natural points of interest are showcased along this trail. Guidebooks are available from the nature lodge for those wishing to complete this trail.



## Twilight Activity

- Mammal Study MB is offered during all twilight times as a two hour session.
- Scouts have the opportunity to fish during Monday and Wednesday twilight sessions.
- Camp Bonner is now offering a new *Leave No Trace* program. The Camp Bonner Leave No Trace Award is offered as a two hour twilight session in which both youth and adults learn about the negative impact we make on our nature's land and how we can improve/prevent such impact.
- Tours of the Eco/Con area are offered during twilight
- There is a Scoutmaster "snake talk" on Thursday evening at 7:45. This talk will go in-depth about the snakes and other animals that we have in the nature lodge and also around camp.



## Critter Crawl

If a troop, patrol, or individual wants to participate in this competition, they must first obtain any animal from around the camp. This can include lizards, insects, turtles, toads, frogs, and other non-venomous animals. On Thursday participants need to bring their chosen animal to the ecology-conservation area at 7:30. We will set up a 10 foot diameter circle. The animals will be placed in the middle of the ring, and the first animal to leave the circle wins. The winning animal's owner will win a prize from the nature lodge. All losing animals will be released.

