

Astronomy Merit Badge Clinic

Rappahannock Astronomy Club presents
Learning and Observing for the Astronomy Merit Badge



Saturday July 18 1pm till late at night
Caledon Natural Area picnic area
11617 Caledon Road King George, VA
On Route 218 between Fredericksburg and Dahlgren, approximately a mile west of Route 206

Astronomy has things to learn and things to see in the sky. During the afternoon we will do the learning requirements. After dark we will observe stars, planets, and other objects in the sky.

This evening is also the Rappahannock Astronomy Club's regular monthly free public star party. A number of club members will be there to show the sky through their telescopes.

What you need to know

There is no cost, but please register by July 1 so we know the number to prepare materials for.

Limited space is available for Scout troops to camp at Caledon after the evening of observing. The park has primitive camping - water faucet, portajohn only, fire only in the amphitheater ring, which is distant from the tent site.

If your troop wishes to camp you must register your numbers by July 1. Remember your tour permit, and arrange your own gear and food as for any troop camping trip. Arrive in time to set up and eat lunch before the clinic starts.

If you are not camping overnight, you may select your departure time. We will observe as late as you want to keep your Scouts out.

No meals are provided. You will have a supper break with time for a bag supper or to cook. Please extinguish any fires by dark so the light does not interfere with observing the night sky.

What to bring

Astronomy merit badge pamphlet
Merit badge blue card
All lights should be red or be fitted with a red filter to preserve your night vision
If you have telescope or binoculars, bring it
If you don't, no worries
An interest in the night sky

The fine print: This merit badge requires multiple observing sessions over at least a month's time. Nobody can complete the merit badge in a single clinic. You will have the opportunity to complete many of the requirements. We will explain how to go about completing the remaining requirements.

If it rains, we will teach under shelter during the day, but nighttime observing will be canceled

To Register and Contact

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and Rappahannock Astronomy Club member
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