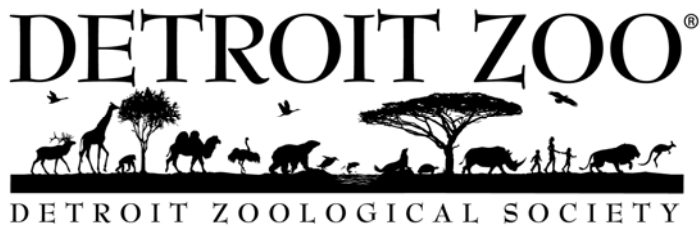




Reptile and Amphibian Merit Badge Program at the



Due to the unique nature of the Boy Scouts of America Merit Badge programs, we offer some guidelines to consider before registering scouts and parents for the program. We have three Education staff members who are recognized by the Boy Scouts as merit badge counselors. We've worked with representatives from the Detroit Area Council to insure we're providing the most beneficial program possible for our scouts. Please review the following requirements, our goal is to be able to sign off on each scout's merit badge at the end of their visit to the Zoo, which requires some preparation on the scout's part before you arrive! Scouts, please make sure you have the Reptile and Amphibian Merit Badge pamphlet before you arrive to help you prepare.

Requirement 1

Scouts should be familiar with six reptile species and four amphibian species before arriving. We'll discuss and visit several species of each while at the Zoo, answering questions and providing more in depth information.

Requirement 2

Scouts should be familiar with where most amphibians and reptiles live in the United States. Education staff will discuss with scouts why some areas have so much larger populations and others have few species. We'll also discuss species native to the State of Michigan.

Requirement 3

Scouts should already be familiar with the basic differences between amphibians and reptiles, alligators and crocodiles, toads and frogs, salamanders and lizards, and snakes and lizards. We'll discuss these in more detail and clear up any lingering questions.

Requirement 4

Scouts and Education Staff will discuss how important reptiles and amphibians are to the environment and some species that are protected by the federal government. Scouts should know three species of reptiles and amphibians that are found in our local area that aren't protected.

Requirement 5

Scouts should have a basic understanding of how amphibians and reptiles reproduce, Education Staff will explain as necessary.

Requirement 6

Scouts should have a basic knowledge of how snakes move, we'll further explain the functions of the muscles, ribs and belly plates.

Requirement 7

Scouts should be familiar with six venomous snakes and the venomous reptile that reside in the United States; we'll discuss what should be done in the case of a bite from one of these species.

Requirement 8

We prefer if you complete Requirement 8b. This needs to be done BEFORE you schedule your visit to the Detroit Zoo. If you are a Zoo member you can access the Zoo weekly for the three month period for free. Docents, our volunteer educators, are usually at the Holden Museum of Living Reptiles, available to answer any questions as you observe. Doing this prior to your visit allows us to be able to sign off on your merit badge at the end of your scheduled program. Keeping a reptile in your house can be a challenge to you, your family and the reptile if you're not familiar with the animal's needs. Please contact us if you have questions or concerns, some species are protected by federal law and should not be collected or require you to have a license.

Requirement 9

We suggest completing options b and c. The internet has a wealth of information as do most field guides. Study pictures and behaviors then visit a local wetland or wooded area with an adult and carefully observe these species in their natural habitat. We'll discuss your choices and how you can identify them when you visit us. Please bring your visual aids with you for part c; you can give us a brief lesson on three different reptiles and amphibians!

Requirement 10

Bring along five superstitions or false beliefs to share, then tell us what the real story is. We'll share some of our own with you. Also, bring seven unusual behaviors or other true facts and amphibians or reptiles and we'll again share additional ones we know.

To register your scout(s), please call 248-541-5717 ext. 3800 to speak with our Education Call Center Representative. Please review our online Scout Quest Availability Calendar to choose the most convenient and available time. The cost is \$30 per adult/scout pair and includes admission to the Zoo on the day of your program. We're looking forward to helping scouts complete this Merit Badge at the Detroit Zoo!