

## Troop 648 – Camp Geronimo 2014

It is time to start thinking about **Merit Badge selections for Camp Geronimo**. Please use the attached sheet to make your selections. I am providing some basic instructions to assist in making your selections. For those going to camp for their first time, the next page will include some recommendations. I am also available to discuss any direct questions you might have about selecting merit badges.

### Instructions:

- 1) I recommend that your son select Merit Badges that he will find interesting and that he does not already have. Please double check your records to help us avoid repeating a class.
- 2) Please note the mandatory age requirements for:
  - a. Canoeing – 13 years (Minimum)
  - b. Climbing – 13 years (Minimum)
  - c. Metalwork – 14 years (Minimum)

These are the camp's rules and they do not allow for exceptions.

- 3) **Please select your top SIX (6) choices.** You may select from any of the merit badges listed in the left column AND/OR the merit badge "Nature Blocks" in the right column. It is important to select your top six; occasionally a class will get filled up OR you may have two selections that conflict. I will try my best to get your top choices, but having six will provide some fall-back options.
- 4) There are four Merit Badge periods at camp. I will aim to sign your son up for THREE (3) classes, giving him (in most cases) one free period. While I recommend this free period to give your son some breathing room while at camp, if he absolutely wants four classes, please note that on your sign up form and I will try to make that happen.
- 5) The five sections in the lower right corner of the form are EXTRA PROGRAMS. If these are areas that your son is interested in, you are free to note that on the form. However, these are not regular classes and should not be part of your SIX choices above.

Please return this completed form to Mr. Benyi as soon as you can, but no later than **April 4, 2014**. It is also acceptable to email me a list of your choices if you prefer.

[jacob.benyi@gmail.com](mailto:jacob.benyi@gmail.com)

## **Recommendations:**

Geronimo has program options for scouts of all ages. The following discussion will provide you with some general guidance on how to best select Merit Badges for camp. If you have specific questions or want to discuss anything with me directly, please feel free to call me or email me.

[jacob.benji@gmail.com](mailto:jacob.benji@gmail.com) or 480.459.0644

- First Year Scouts
  - Swimming is a great Eagle Required MB to get out of the way. Most first years will do well with swimming, unless they are particularly weak swimmers.
  - A craft MB, such as Leatherwork or Woodcarving can be fun for a lot of younger scouts.
  - Some of the nature MBs can be interesting, depending on your son's interests.
- Second Year Scouts
  - First Aid is a great Eagle Required MB to take in the second or third year.
  - Shooting sports are good at the Second Year on. (Archery, Rifle, Muzzleloading) – Note that a scout should only do one in a given year. It is too much work to try to do two at the same time.
- Third Year Scouts
  - At this point, any remaining Eagle MBs can and should be completed. (This could include Cooking, Environmental Science or Sustainability, and Lifesaving or Emergency Preparedness.)
  - Canoeing can be good in the third year, assuming Swimming has been completed.
  - Horsemanship can be another different experience to consider.
- Older Scouts
  - Older scouts that “have all of the MBs” actually probably don't. One option is to look at the list; there may actually be some hidden gems that could spark an interest.
  - Another option is to consider the youth water safety classes offered through the aquatics department. These can be a challenge for an older scout.
  - Also, the Spade Ranch program provides the opportunity for older scouts to get away and do more high adventure activities with other older scouts.

If you have questions about your selections, please don't hesitate to ask me.

# Camp Geronimo Merit Badge Program Sign-Up Sheet

Troop #	Session:	Site:	
Scout Name:	Age:	Scout Rank:	
Scoutmaster (at camp)			
Address:	City:	ST:	Zip:

## Minimum Age Requirements Reminder

**Canoeing - 13**

**Climbing- 13**

**Metalwork - 14**

- Listed below are the merit badges offered at Camp Geronimo and their length of time.
- Please choose your top six (6) choices and your Scoutmaster and the camp staff will do everything he can to give you as many of your top choices as possible.
- Please number your choices (1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6).

### Merit Badges

Choice	Time	Merit Badge
		Archery
		Astronomy
		Basketry
		Bird Study
		Canoeing
		Climbing
		Cooking
		Emergency Preparedness
		Environmental Science
		First Aid
		Horsemanship
		Indian Lore / Archeology (Block Merit Badge)
		Leatherwork
		Lifesaving
		Metalwork
		Orienteering
		Pioneering
		Pottery
		Reptile & Amph. Study
		Rifle Opt A (22 cal.)
		Rifle Opt C (Muzzleloading)
		Rowing
		Salesmanship
		Space Exploration
		Swimming
		Sustainability
		Trail Begins (New Scouts)
		Weather
		Wilderness Survival
		Wood Carving

### Nature Area Merit Badge Blocks

Choice	Area	Merit Badge 1/ 2
	Block A	Mammal Study / Fish & Wildlife Mgt
	Block B	Nature / Forestry
	Block C	Forestry / Fish & Wildlife Mgt
	Block D	Geology / Soil & Water Cons
	Block E	Insect Study / Geology
	Block F	Insect Study / Nature

### Merit Badges by Appointment Only

Sign Up for these Merit Badges Monday at the  
Outdoor Skills Area

	Backpacking
	Camping
	Fire Safety
	Geocaching
	Hiking

### Other Activities

Sign Up for these activities Monday at the Pool

	Mile Swim BSA
	Snorkeling BSA

### Older Scout Activities

	Spade Ranch
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Sign up for this activity Monday at the Range

	Top Shot Shooting
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### Youth Leader Training

Sign up for training Monday at the Pool

	Swim & Water Rescue
	Paddle Craft Safety

**DUPLICATE THIS FORM AS NEEDED**