

Eco-Explorer

Brownies will fulfill the activities for this Try-it by learning: how to discover nature through observation, what a habitat is, what a food chain is, and what they can do to help the natural world. The girls will also get a chance to “construct” habitats for various animals.

Time: 2 hours Fee: \$4.00 per person

Junior Girl Scouts

Wildlife

Michigan’s different state symbols, how the size and shape of a bird’s beak depends on what the bird eats, how animals are grouped together by their characteristics, and about different poisonous plants and animals. Also, they will become field biologists by observing creatures in their natural setting.

Finding Your Way

Scouts will finish this badge by learning: about different kinds of maps, how to use a compass to find north, south, east and west, and what to do if lost without a compass and map. They will make different kinds of maps to further their understanding of maps.

Earth Connections

Scouts will finish this badge by becoming ecologists for the day, and learn: how plants and animals adapt and change, how American Indians and early pioneers used the natural world, and different things that are being done to help protect the environment.

Rocks Rock

Scouts will finish this badge by discovering and learning: how land is shaped, what soil is, to identify the three major categories of rocks, and how the past is preserved in fossils. Our bookstore will be open for the scouts to start their rock collections.

Earth Connections

Scouts will finish this badge by learning: how to stay safe in the cold winter season, about snow,

and how no two snowflakes are alike. The girls will become detectives and discover who has been traveling through the snow.

Time: 2 hours Fee: \$4.00 per person

Cadets

With the combination of skill builders, technology, service projects, and career exploration, cadets can earn their badges in any of the following: *Wildlife, Digging Through the Past, Eco-Action, All about Birds.*

Time: 3 hours Fee: \$4.00 per person

Important Information

- All groups must make prior arrangements with the nature center before coming. Early scheduling is recommended due to the great demand for programs and may be done up to a year in advance.
- Dress for the weather and natural setting. The desire to learn rapidly fades when children are cold or wet.
- Sack lunches may be eaten in the picnic area. We have no indoor eating facilities.
- Groups have access to the trails only under the supervision of a naturalist.
- Seven Ponds is a nature sanctuary—collecting plants and animals is not permitted.
- When scheduling a program let us know about children with special needs—physical, emotional or learning. This allows us to make the appropriate arrangements prior to your arrival.
- The bookstore also carries a wide selection of nature oriented materials appropriate for students to buy as gifts and souvenirs.

Seven Ponds Nature Center

3854 Crawford Road

Dryden, MI 48428

810-796-3200

www.sevenponds.org

Seven Ponds Nature Center

Scout Leader

Program Guide



Seven Ponds Nature Center, a private, non-profit organization, is a nature sanctuary and environmental education center.

SEVEN PONDS NATURE CENTER is a nature sanctuary and environmental education facility of 468 acres. Over six miles of trails lead visitors by deep, glacial lakes and through rich wetlands, a tallgrass prairie, mature oak-maple woods, and a stream with an active beaver colony. It is an area of rich diversity where every season and every visit bring new sightings and new insights.

Children are fascinated by nature yet many have little direct contact with it. This makes Seven Ponds an ideal outdoor place where scouts can experience nature first hand. Our experienced staff and well-trained volunteer naturalists guide visitors toward a trained understanding of their natural environment and humankind's inseparable role in it.

Seven Ponds offers a variety of badge work, from Brownies through Seniors, from Cub Scouts through Boy Scouts. The children will not only learn the requirements for the badges, but will also gain insight and respect for our natural world. By learning responsibility for nature, the children will gain an appreciation that will enable them to become stewards of the land.

Leaders are sent a confirmation letter, and a map when they reserve a date for a program. Due to time and effort we can only cover one badge achievement per session. For more information and for scheduling programs, call the nature center at (810) 796-3200.

Seasonal Walks

Seasonal Walks are informal and open-ended, emphasizing the changes in nature throughout the year. Each season, indeed each day, has its own fascinating mysteries for eager scouts to discover along our trails. Much of the walk is spontaneous with topics chosen from interesting events encountered on the trail. How plants and animals live and interact, the natural laws they follow, and our ancestors' close relationship with nature are some of the many themes



that may be covered. Seasonal walks are for any organized group from preschool to adult.

Time: 1½ hours Fee: \$3.00 per person

Boy Scout Programs

Cub & Wolf Scouts

Scouts will have their elective and achievement requirements fulfilled with a seasonal walk customized to their specific needs. These programs will also create a greater awareness and appreciation for our surroundings.

Time: 2 hours Fee: \$3.00 per person

Webelos

Forester Badge

Webelos will fulfill the requirements for this badge by learning to identify: different parts of trees and layers of the forest, six different trees, six different plants beneficial to wildlife, how water and minerals help trees grow, how trees use sunlight, and three different woods used for building. Webelos will also learn about wildfires.

Geologist Badge

Webelos will fulfill the requirements for this badge by learning about: different minerals used in products, different ways land is formed, and fossils. They will also observe many different examples of fossils and minerals, and learn methods of identifying them. The nature cen-

ter's bookstore will be open to purchase a variety of rocks and minerals if desired.

Naturalist Badge

Webelos will fulfill the requirements for this badge by learning about and observing: what a naturalist does and where they work, birds and how they migrate south, poisonous plants and venomous animals, ecosystems and the different parts of them, and also how humans affect the ecosystem. Webelos will also receive a grand tour of the nature center.

Time: 2 hours Fee: \$4.00 per person

Advanced Badges

Older Scouts working on advanced awards can find service project opportunities at Seven Ponds.

Girl Scout Programs

Brownie Try-its

Watching Wildlife

Brownies will fulfill the activities for this Try-it by learning about: animal architects through investigation of their homes, how animals communicate, why an animal's "wardrobe" changes from season to season, and what animals might eat by making shopping lists for them.

Animals

Brownies will fulfill the activities for this Try-it by learning: the difference between wild and domesticated animals, how to watch wildlife safely, the many ways animals move, the different ways animals communicate, and that animals can be put into groups by the way their bodies look.

Earth & Sky

Brownies will fulfill the activities for this Try-it by investigating: the soil to see what is hidden inside, how erosion affects soil, the energy the sun provides, the different kinds of clouds found in the sky, different creatures that travel through the air, and eclipses.