

Attention Boy Scout Leaders!

You can earn a partial Oceanography Merit Badge at our current exhibit **EXTREME DEEP: MISSION TO THE ABYSS**. Book a field trip for your scouts and learn about the following badge requirements:



- Underwater Topography - See what is meant by rift valley, canyon, trench, and oceanic ridge. Compare the depths in the oceans with the heights of mountains on land.
- Define continental shelf, continental slope, and abyssal plain
- Learn how the animals and plants of the ocean affect the chemical composition of seawater.
- Define benthos, nekton, and plankton. Name some of the plants and animals that make up each of these groups. Describe the place and importance of phytoplankton in the oceanic food chain.
- Touch a live Atlantic Stingray in our “touch pool.”
- See a shark embryo inside a shark egg.

Discounted admission for groups of 15+ people – only \$5 each!
Call us at 533-4330 to book a date for your group.

LYNX
exhibits

300 W San Antonio Ave

El Paso, Texas 79901

915-533-4330 main

915-533-1344 fax

www.LynxExhibits.com



Oceanography

The oceans cover more than 70 percent of our planet and are the dominant feature of Earth. Wherever you live, the oceans influence the weather, the soil, the air, and the geography of your community. To study the oceans is to study Earth itself.

Requirements

1. Name four branches of oceanography. Describe at least five reasons why it is important for people to learn about the oceans.
2. Define salinity, temperature, and density, and describe how these important properties of seawater are measured by the physical oceanographer. Discuss the circulation and currents of the ocean. Describe the effects of the oceans on weather and climate.
3. Describe the characteristics of ocean waves. Point out the differences among the storm surge, tsunami, tidal wave, and tidal bore. Explain the difference between sea, swell, and surf. Explain how breakers are formed.
4. Draw a cross-section of underwater topography. Show what is meant by:

Name and put on your drawing the following: seamount, guyot, rift valley, canyon, trench, and oceanic ridge. Compare the depths in the oceans with the heights of mountains on land.

5. Continental shelf
6. Continental slope
7. Abyssal plain
8. List the main salts, gases, and nutrients in seawater. Describe some important properties of water. Tell how the animals and plants of the ocean affect the chemical composition of seawater. Explain how differences in evaporation and precipitation affect the salt content of the oceans.
9. Describe some of the biologically important properties of seawater. Define benthos, nekton, and plankton. Name some of the plants and animals that make up each of these groups. Describe the place and importance of phytoplankton in the oceanic food chain.
10. Do ONE of the following:
 - Make a plankton net.* Tow the net by a dock, wade with it, hold it in a current, or tow it from a rowboat. Do this for about 20 minutes. Save the sample. Examine it under a microscope or high-power glass. Identify the three most common types of plankton in the sample.
 - Make a series of models (clay or plaster and wood) of a volcanic island. Show the growth of an atoll from a fringing reef through a barrier reef. Describe the Darwinian theory of coral reef formation.
 - Measure the water temperature at the surface, midwater, and bottom of a body of water four times daily for five consecutive days. You may measure depth with a rock tied to a line. Make a Secchi disk to measure turbidity (how much suspended sedimentation is in the water). Measure the air temperature. Note the cloud cover and roughness of the water. Show your findings (air and water temperature, turbidity) on a graph. Tell how the water temperature changes with air temperature.
 - Make a model showing the inshore sediment movement by littoral currents, tidal movement, and wave action. Include such formations as high and low waterlines, low-tide terrace, berm, and coastal cliffs. Show how offshore bars are built up and torn down.
 - Make a wave generator. Show reflection and refraction of waves. Show how groins, jetties, and breakwaters affect these patterns.
 - Track and monitor satellite images available on the Internet for a specific location for three weeks. Describe what you have learned to your counselor.
11. Do ONE of the following:
 - Write a 500-word report on a book about oceanography approved by your counselor.
 - Visit one of the following:

Write a 500-word report about your visit.

 - Oceanographic research ship
 - Oceanographic institute
 - Explain to your troop in a five-minute prepared speech "Why Oceanography Is Important" or describe "Career Opportunities in Oceanography." (Before making your speech, show your speech outline to your counselor for approval.)
12. Describe four methods that marine scientists use to investigate the ocean, underlying geology, and organisms living in the water.

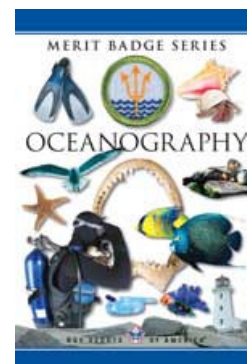
*May be done in lakes or streams.

Resources

Scouting Literature

Bird Study, Energy, Environmental Science, Fish and Wildlife Management, Fishing, Fly-Fishing, Geology, Mammal Study, Nature, Plant Science, Reptile and Amphibian Study, Soil and Water Conservation, and Weather merit badge pamphlets

Books



Oceanography
BSA Supply No. 35924

- Ballard, Robert D. *Exploring the Titanic*. Econo-Clad Books, 1990.
- Broad, William J. *The Universe Below: Discovering the Secrets of the Deep Sea*. Simon and Schuster, 1997.
- Byatt, Andrew, Alastair Fothergill, and Martha Holmes. *The Blue Planet: Seas of Life*. DK Publishing, 2002.
- Carson, Rachel L. *The Sea Around Us*. Oxford University Press, 1991.
- Carson, Rachel L., and Sue Hubbell. *The Edge of the Sea*. Houghton Mifflin, 1998.
- Center for Marine Conservation Staff. *The Ocean Book: Aquarium and Seaside Activities and Ideas for All Ages*. John Wiley & Sons Inc., 1989.
- Coulombe, Deborah. *The Seaside Naturalist: A Guide to Study at the Seashore*. Simon and Schuster, 1992.
- Earle, Sylvia A., and Wolcott Henry. *Wild Ocean: America's Parks Under the Sea*. National Geographic Society, 1999.
- Ellis, Richard. *Encyclopedia of the Sea*. Alfred A. Knopf, 2000.
- Foreman, W. *History of American Deep Submersible Operations*. Best Publishing Co., 1999.
- MacQuilty, Dr. Miranda. *Eyewitness: Ocean*. DK Publishing, 2000.
- Markle, Sandra. *Pioneering Ocean Depths*. Atheneum, 1995.
- Miller, James W., and Ian G. Koblick. *Living and Working in the Sea*. Best Publishing Co., 1995.
- Parker, Steve. *Eyewitness: Fish*. DK Publishing, 2000.
- *Eyewitness: Seashore*. DK Publishing, 2000.
- Strang, Craig, Catharine Halversen, and Kimi Hosoume. *On Sandy Shores*. GEMS: Great Explorations in Math and Science, 1996.

Organizations and Web Sites

The American Meteorological Society

45 Beacon St.

Boston, MA 02108-3693

Web site: <http://www.ametsoc.org/AMS>

Careers in Oceanography, Marine Science, and Marine Biology

Web site: <http://scilib.ucsd.edu/sio/guide/career.html>

The Discovery Channel Blue Planet

Web site: <http://dsc.discovery.com/convergence/blueplanet/blueplanet.html>

The JASON Foundation for Education

11 Second Ave. Needham Heights, MA 02494-2808

Web site: <http://www.jasonproject.org>

National Climatic Data Center

Federal Building 151 Patton Ave. Asheville, NC 28801-5001

Web site: <http://lwf.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/ncdc.html>

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

14th Street and Constitution Avenue, NW, Room 6013 Washington, DC 20230

Web site: <http://www.noaa.gov>

The Ocean Alliance

191 Weston Road Lincoln, MA 01775

Web site: <http://www.oceanalliance.org>

The Savage Seas, Public Broadcasting Service

Web site: <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/savageseas>

Scripps Institute of Oceanography

8602 La Jolla Shores Drive La Jolla, CA 92037

Web site: <http://www.sio.ucsd.edu>

Secrets of the Ocean Realm

Web site: <http://www.pbs.org/oceanrealm>

The Tide Pool Page

Web site: <http://web.mit.edu/corrina/tpool/tidepool.html>