INSECT STUDY MERIT BADGE REQUIREMENTS

Additional checkoff sheets and helps are available from ScouterMom.com.

1. Do the following:										
1a. Explain to your counselor the most likely hazards associated with exposure to ants and bees and what you should do to anticipate, help prevent, mitigate, and respond to these hazards.										
1b. Discuss the prevention of and treatment for health concerns that could occur while working with ants and bees, including insect bites and anaphylactic shock.										
2. Tell how insects are different from all other animals. Show how insects are different from centipedes and spiders.										
3. Point out and name the main parts of an insect.										
4. Describe the characteristics that distinguish the principal families and orders of insects.										
5. Do the following:										
5a. Observe 20 different live species of insects in their habitat. In your observations, include at least four orders of insects										
5b. Make a scrapbook of the 20 insects you observe in 5a. Include photographs, sketches, illustrations, and articles. Label each insect with its common and scientific names, where possible. Share your scrapbook with your merit badge counselor.										
6. Do the following:										
6a. From your scrapbook collection, identify three species of insects helpful to humans and five species of insects harmful to humans.										
6b. Describe some general methods of insect control										
7. Explain the symbiotic relationship between bees and humankind. Explain what colony collapse disorder (CCD) is and some of the possible causes. Discuss how CCD affects our food supply.										
8. Compare the life histories of a butterfly and a grasshopper. Tell how they are different.										
9. Raise an insect through complete metamorphosis from its larva stage to its adult stage (e.g., raise a butterfly or moth from a caterpillar).										
10. Do ONE of the following:										
10a. Observe an ant colony in a formicarium (ant farm). Find the queen and worker ants. Explain to your counselor the different chambers found within an ant colony.										
10b. Study a hive of bees. Remove the combs and find the queen. Estimate the amount of brood and count the number of queen cells. Explain how to determine the amount of honey in the hive.										
11. Tell things that make social insects different from solitary insects.										

12. Tell how insects fit in the food chains of other insects, fish, birds, and mammals.										
13. Find out about three career opportunities in insect study. Pick one and find out the education, training, and experience required for this profession. Discuss this with your counselor, and explain why this profession might interest you.										
Completed										
Presented										