

UNCOVERING THE PAST CUB SCOUT NOVA AWARD

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

This module is designed to help you explore the wonders of archaeology.

1. Choose either A, B, or C and complete all requirements.

1A. Watch an episode or episodes (about one hour total) of a show about anything related to archaeology. Then do the following:

1A-1. Make a list of at least two questions or ideas from what you watched.

1A-2. Discuss two of the questions or ideas with your counselor.

1B. Read (about one hour total) about anything related to archaeology. Then do the following:

1B-1. Make a list of at least two questions or ideas from what you read.

1B-2. Discuss two of the questions or ideas with your counselor.

1C. Do a combination of reading and watching (about one hour total) about anything related to archaeology. Then do the following:

1C-1. Make a list of at least two questions or ideas from what you have read and watched.

1C-2. Discuss two of the questions or ideas with your counselor.

2. Complete ONE adventure from the following list for your current rank or complete option A or option B. (If you choose an adventure, choose one you have not already earned.) Discuss with your counselor what kind of science, technology, engineering, and math was used in the adventure or option.

2. Adventure 1 - Collections and Hobbies (Wolf)

2. Adventure 2 - Beat of the Drum (Bear)

2. Adventure 3 - Looking Back, Looking Forward (Webelos)

2. Adventure 4 - Project Family (Webelos)

2-Option A: Some of the objects archaeologists find have been preserved in various ways. Experiment with preserving a hot dog with baking soda. Measure each dimension, then completely surround and cover the hot dog in baking soda. Let sit in a safe place for seven days, and measure again. Then cover the hot dog again, let it sit another seven days, and measure it a third time. Make note of any changes in size, shape, color, and other properties. Compare it to a hot dog that has not been preserved. Discuss your experiment with your counselor. Note: Do not eat the hot dog, and make sure to store your experiment in a safe place and dispose of it properly when you are done.

2-Option B: Option B: Use plaster of paris to create a "rock" mold at least half an inch thick. Once it is set, create a dark surface like a patina on the rock, possibly by using tempera paint. Use a carving tool, such as a screw or push pin, to create one or more petroglyphs on your rock. Search online for "plaster of paris petroglyphs" for instructions.

3. Explore. Do each of the following:

3A. A. Look up the definition of the word archaeology and discover what an archaeologist does on a dig site, and what other activities are involved in their work. Discuss it with your counselor.

3B. Discover the differences between physical remains, artifacts, and ecofacts. Discuss with your counselor examples of each that archaeologists can find for a prehistoric people group.

3C. Look around your house. Make a list of 10 artifacts from your home that serve as clues to the way you live. Discuss what you discovered with your counselor.

4. Be an archaeologist! Choose A or B:

4A. Much can be discovered about a group of people based on the items they throw away. With a parent or guardian's permission and guidance, look through the items in a medium-sized trash can that contains at least a few days' worth of trash. Draw conclusions about the people in that location and how they might live, based on what they throw away. Determine which items are artifacts and which are ecofacts. Discuss with your counselor how the relative age of the artifacts be estimated based on their location in the trash can.

4B. Create your own layers of artifacts and ecofacts. Gather some small items that would show future archaeologists how you and your family lived. Use a plastic bottle or glass jar as the vessel and Play-Doh, sand, dirt, etc., to form layers. Place the gathered items in different layers. Think about which layers would hold the older items compared to newer ones. Show it to your counselor, and discuss with your counselor why you chose these items and what they would show archaeologists about how you lived. Excavate your items when you're done.

5. Visit a place that has items that have been excavated, such as a museum, dig site, historical society, etc. Talk to someone who works there about the displays. If you can't visit in person, use resources in your school or local library or on the internet (with your parent's or guardian's permission and guidance) to take a virtual visit. Discuss with your counselor what you saw, how the archaeologists helped uncover those items, and what questions you had.

6. Discuss with your counselor what you have learned about archaeology while working on this award.