



SCOUTS BADGE PROGRAM GUIDE

FOSTERING ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP SINCE 1969

REVISED AUGUST 2019

Natural science **Biodiversity** Cultural
history Outdoor recreation Life cycles
Connection Canoeing History Snowshoe
Stewardship Health Birds of prey
Escape, Explore, Experience Pond study
GPS navigation Wetlands **Physical
activity** Wet 'N' Scaly All seasons
Team building Sweetwater harvest
Experiential Compass orienteering Habi-
tats **Discovery** Ecosystems Birds of prey



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ESCAPE...EXPLORE...EXPERIENCE...

Dear Scouters,

The staff & volunteers of Wye Marsh are a team of enthusiastic Naturalists who are excited to share their knowledge and appreciation for the natural world, environmental stewardship, and the many benefits associated with participating in physical activities out-of-doors.

Wye Marsh and its interpretive centre sits on a 1200 hectare (3000 acre) wildlife area situated in an environmentally endowed location in southern Georgian Bay. The Friends of Wye Marsh, a non-profit organization, has stewardship responsibilities for this property and whose mission it is to *foster environmental stewardship*.

What makes us UNIQUE:

- ❖ Our programming provides participants with opportunities to interact with, develop care and concern for, and take action in the places where scouts live, study, and play.
- ❖ Our programs are designed to help fulfill badge requirements in the manner set out by the Canadian Path
- ❖ Our Outdoor Educators (Naturalists) provide connections between us and our surroundings, allowing participants to directly observe impacts and issues by exposing them to the many points of view that must be considered in making choices to preserve the health of the natural environment.
- ❖ We believe that learning while having fun encourages immediate and long term involvement in environmental stewardship.
- ❖ Our unique setting - National & Provincial Wildlife Area, Provincially Significant Wetland, Trumpeter swans (Provincially rare bird), species at risk, productive & biodiverse ecosystem - provides endless opportunities to make unique connections.

ABOUT US

ENVIRONMENTAL

PLANNING

How to use this GUIDE:

A successful and enjoyable trip comes from planning and preparation. This guide is designed to outline the planning process by providing you with the necessary tools that will ensure your trip to Wye Marsh is the highlight of your year!

Step 1. Choose program(s)

- Each program is one or two hours in length. Programs can be combined to make up a half or full day. Program times can be flexible in order to accommodate travel arrangements.
- Please ensure that you choose one alternative program as well as two alternative dates in the event that your first choice is unavailable.

Step 2. Submit request

- Visit <https://www.wyemarsh.com/overnight-visits> and submit an Overnight Booking Request online form or contact our Reservations and Education Coordinator, who would be happy to assist you with your planning. If interested in a day visit only, please visit <https://www.wyemarsh.com/groups-and-tours> and fill out our Day Trip Booking Request online form.
- Please note that a Booking Request does not imply a booking/reservation.

Step 3. What to expect

- A Booking Confirmation will be sent via email within two business days of receiving your request.
- A \$190.00 non-refundable deposit is required in order to confirm your booking and is based upon our minimum booking requirement.
- Payment of balance owing is due upon departure.
- Two weeks prior to your arrival please confirm your number of participants, program choices, arrival and departure times.
- Our programs run rain or shine.

EDUCATION

Flexible Programming

The Wye Marsh has programming that is designed to fit in with the concepts followed by The Canadian Path. We can now **offer you a variety of two hour programs that make good options for 'do' portion of the plan-do -review process** geared towards the Personal Achievement Badges and Outdoor Adventure Skills. We have set out suggestions as to what programs would fit well to each badge, at each level but you are welcome to pick and choose what works best for your scouts' plan.

Traditional Badge Programming is available upon request

Options:

Option 1. One Hour Programs

Choose Four (4) one hour programs to make up a Full Day

Choose Two (2) one hour programs to make up a Half Day

Option 2. Two Hour Programs

Choose Two (2) two hour programs to make up a Full Day

Choose One (1) two hour program to make up a Half Day

Option 3. Combination Programs

Choose Two (2) one hour programs and One (1) two hour program to make up a Full Day

PLANNING

PROGRAMS

Program Guide: ❖ Age Recommendation


















































Season: Spring 

Summer 

Fall 


Winter 


PLANNING


One Hour Programs	Program Title	Beaver	Cub	Scout	Venture	Season Availability
	Marsh Mingle (Group Games)	❖	❖	❖	❖	   
	Discovery Hike	❖	❖	❖	❖	   
	Birds of Prey Show	❖	❖	❖	❖	   
	Wet 'N' Scaly Show	❖	❖	❖	❖	   
	Sweep Netting	❖	❖	❖	❖	  
	Dip Netting	❖	❖	❖	❖	  
	The Great Tree Challenge			❖	❖	   
	Dichotomous Keys			❖	❖	   
	Bannock Roasting	❖	❖	❖	❖	   
	Marsh Exploration by Canoe	❖	❖	❖	❖	  
	Marsh Exploration by Kayak			❖	❖	  
	Conservation Works		❖	❖	❖	  
	Fire Building		❖	❖	❖	   
Shelter Building		❖	❖	❖	   	

AT A GLANCE

❖ Age Recommendation

Season: Spring 

Summer 

Fall 

Winter 

Two Hour Programs	Program Title	Beaver	Cub	Scout	Venture	Season Availability
	Team Building			❖	❖	   
	Ultimate Survival		❖	❖	❖	   
	Winter Survival			❖	❖	
	GPS Navigation			❖	❖	   
	Animal Tracking	❖	❖	❖	❖	
	Cross Country Skiing		❖	❖	❖	
	Snowshoeing	❖	❖	❖	❖	
	Science of Snow	❖	❖	❖	❖	
	Personal Achievement Programs	❖	❖	❖	❖	   
	Sweetwater Harvest	❖	❖	❖	❖	
	Core Outdoor Adventure Skills	❖	❖	❖	❖	   

PLANNING

BEAVERS

PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT

Wye Marsh programming is designed to fit within the concepts followed by The Canadian Path. We can now offer **you a variety of two hour programs that make good options for 'do' portion of the plan-do -review process** geared towards the Personal Achievement Badges and Outdoor Adventure Skills. We have set out suggestions as to what programs would fit well to each badge, at each level but you are welcome to pick and choose what **works best for your scouts' plan.**

Beavers Personal Achievement Badges– Half day Programs

Creative Beaver: Look See Paint



More than just an introduction to watercolour painting, Look, See, Paint brings a new way to view, appreciate and reconnect with our natural world. Equipped with a portable painting kit, watercolour paper and a view finder, participants will explore the natural beauty of the marsh from an artistic perspective.

Exploring Beaver: Wilderness Survival Basics



After a quick and active introduction to wilderness preparedness and survival priorities, we will work as a team to building a survival shelter, and fire in the fire pit. We will also begin an adventure into the use and benefits of compasses.

Earth Beaver: Seeds and Needs



Through first hand exploration of the various plants, both Native and Invasive, that call the Wye Marsh home, participants will learn about the roles and interrelationships of plants in the Wye Marsh ecosystem, as well as their day-to-day lives. Beavers will also learn about plant anatomy, the basic needs of plants, and plant growth through engaging, hands-on games and activities.

Scientific Beaver: Studying the Beaver Pond



With dip nets in hand, your Beavers will learn about the many amazing adaptations the invertebrates of the marsh possess. Cubs will also learn about the interconnectedness of all of the aquatic marsh inhabitants, and explore the surrounding habitat by foot.

BEAVERS

BEAVERS cont.

Beaver Heroes

Environmental conservation and Citizen science make you an Eco Hero! Different conservation projects are possible at different times of the year but all of them will take place outside and leave your Beavers feeling empowered and that they can make a difference to their environment.



Canada Beaver

Your Beavers will take an in-depth look at the amazing adaptations of the beaver, through a metaphorical dress-up activity, a beaver signs habitat hike, and a beaver dam construction competition. While exploring the significance of wetlands to our **country's ecology they will have the opportunity to see some of the wildlife that makes Canada unique from carnivorous plants to the Trillium and Burdock –the idea source of 'Velcro' there is so much to experience in our great land.**



Please see ' Core Outdoor Adventure Skills' and 'General Interest' sections for additional activities

PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT

CUBS

PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT

CUBS Personal Achievement Badges— Half day Programs



Earth: The Dirt On Soil

Through first hand exploration of the various plants, both Native and Invasive, that call the Wye Marsh home, participants will learn about the roles and interrelationships of plants in the Wye Marsh ecosystem, as well as their day-to-day lives. Beavers will also learn about plant anatomy, the basic



Water: Pond Study

With dip nets in hand, students will learn about the many amazing adaptations the aquatic invertebrates of the marsh possess, as well as what these insects can tell us about the water quality of the marsh. Students will also learn about the interconnectedness of the marsh inhabitants and explore the surrounding habitat by foot. (Excellent combination with a Guided canoe or a wet and Scaly Presentation. See page 13 and 15 for additional information)



Air: Wild Birding!

This adventure filled experience acts as an introduction to the wonderful world of birding. We will introduce your cubs to how you use binoculars and how to navigate the confusing birding books. After some practice we will be out in the Wye Marsh identifying everything we spot in our skies and learning bird calls! (Excellent combination with a Birds of Prey show. See page 15 for additional information)



Science: Our Diverse World

Cubs will explore the values of biodiversity and its impact on ecosystem stability. Through role-playing activities they will experience how ecosystems can fall, and recover in relation to appropriate niches being filled. They will conduct field work that assists with the conservation of the Wye Marsh and observe and categorize its diversity and abundance. (Great when combined with a Wet and Scaly Presentation. See page 15 for additional information)

CUBS

CUBS cont'

Canada:

A habitat is a home and Canada is ours. Cubs will explore the essential components of habitats needed by all living things, including themselves, as they partake in energetic games, and a wetland habitat hike. Participants will also search the one of our ecosystem (changes seasonally) to investigate some the intriguing invertebrates that call the Marsh home. They will also discover why Canada is the number one global producer of Maple syrup.



Winter Fitness: Snowshoeing

We will discuss how to prevent hypothermia and how to dress properly for a winter outing. We will then go out on a guided snowshoeing expedition and try our best at a snowshoe obstacle course. (Great when partnered with cross-country skiing. See page 14 for additional information)



Summer Fitness: Canoeing

Cubs will learn the parts of the paddle, then parts of a canoe, sing songs, play a paddle game and of course try their hand at team paddling a Voyager style canoe. Its all about practice and teamwork!



Art: Look See Paint

More than just an introduction to watercolour painting, Look, See, Paint brings a new way to view, appreciate and reconnect with our natural world. Equipped with a portable painting kit, watercolour paper and a view finder, participants will explore the natural beauty of the marsh from an artistic perspective.



Please see 'Core Outdoor Adventure Skills' and 'General Interest' sections for additional activities

PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT

SCOUTS

SCOUTS Personal Achievement Badges—Half Day Programs

Canada: **Canada's Biodiversity**

Scouts will play a game about the importance of biodiversity, take part in one of our seasonally available conservation projects and explore the diversity of species found right here at the Wye Marsh through the Great Tree Challenge and Sweep netting, and how the biodiversity of this ecosystem compares to the other ecosystems found in Canada. (Great when paired with a Birds of Prey or Wet and Scaly Presentation. See page 15 for additional information)



Arts: Look, See, Paint

More than just an introduction to watercolour painting, Look, See, Paint brings a new way to view, appreciate and reconnect with our natural world. Equipped with a portable painting kit, watercolour paper and a view finder, participants will explore the natural beauty of the marsh from an artistic perspective.



Science:

Scouts will explore the scientific world that is Taxonomy and they will discover why it is important to be able to classify our world. They will learn how to use a dichotomous key, and make one themselves! We will also have lots of hands on **experience of going out 'in the field' to identify everything they can find! 2 of the 3 field activities (dip net, sweep net and arboreal identification)** will be completed based on availability and season. (Great when paired with a Wet and Scaly Presentation. See page 15 for additional information)



Technology: GPS Navigation

After an introductory lesson on using Global Positioning System (GPS) units, participants will be asked to correctly answer animal trivia questions that will lead them to geocaches containing animal tokens. Teamwork, problem solving, and keen observation skills will all come into play as participants attempt to collect as many animal tokens as possible within the allotted time.



Air: Let your Birding Skills Soar

Scouts will be given an opportunity to expand their knowledge of our native bird species. We will cover topics such as identification using song and flight pattern as well as the habitat indicators, all on an exploratory hike of the Wye Marsh. (Great when combined with a Birds of Prey show. See page 15 for additional information)



PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT

SCOUTS

PERSONAL ACHIEVEMENT

SCOUTS cont'

Earth:



Scouts will be introduced to the study of rocks and minerals and soil through interactive activities that will demonstrate the important role that they play in our everyday lives. An investigative geological hunt, soil core sampling, identification of mystery mineral specimen and more. (Great when paired with animal tracking)

Summer Fitness: Canoeing



Scouts will learn the parts of the paddle, then parts of a canoe, sing songs, play a paddle game and of course take their paddling skills to the next level by trying their hand at team paddling a Voyager style canoe. Its all about practice and teamwork! (Great when partnered with Kayaking. See page 13 for additional information)

Winter Fitness: Snowshoeing



We will discuss how to prevent hypothermia and how to dress properly for a winter outing. We will then go out on a guided snowshoeing expedition and try our best at a snowshoe obstacle course. (Great when partnered with cross-country skiing. See page 14 for additional information)

Water: The Flow of the Marsh



This is an adventure in the discovery of not only the importance of healthy water to people but all the critical rolls it plays to the myriad of animals that live in or use the water of the Wye Marsh. We will dip net and discover what our findings can tell us about the health of our water, perform basic water testing and explore every nook of the Wye Marsh in search of the species hiding within. (Great when partnered with Canoeing or Kayaking or a Wet and Scaly Presentation. See page 13 and 15 for additional information)

Please see 'Core Outdoor Adventure Skills' and 'General Interest' sections for additional activities

SCOUTS CANADA

CORE OUTDOOR SKILLS

Trail Skills– Half Day Programs

Compass Orienteering

Equipped with nothing more than a magnetic compass and the know-how to use it, participants will trek through the wilderness in search of hidden orienteering markers. Teamwork, leadership, problem solving skills, and accuracy will all come into play as participants navigate our challenging orienteering course in an attempt to piece together an inspirational quote.



Animal Tracking

Abundant in numbers, but very rarely seen, Wye Marsh's winter inhabitants have left stories of their travels behind in the snow. Designed to kindle awareness and understanding of Ontario's winter-active mammals, this program focuses on identifying animal tracks and scats, as well as animal adaptations, behaviours and winter survival techniques.



Wilderness Survival

This active day will cover the areas of wilderness preparedness, survival priorities, fire starting and shelter building. Then we **will conveniently “lose” the participants in the bush, where, in order to survive, they must work as a team to prepare a survival site, as well as prepare and present a theatrical rescue story!**



Outdoor Basics

Here we will cover the introductory knots used for aspects from shelter building to first aid and rescue. We will also introduce the features of a map and how they can be used alone and in combination with a compass and of course cover all the basics of compass.



SCOUTS CANADA

Paddling Skills – Half Day Programs

Exploring the Canoe



There is no better way to explore the Wye Marsh ecosystem than seated among friends in one of our large voyageur-style canoes. After a brief lesson on paddling technique and canoe safety, participants will paddle past blooming water lilies, basking turtles, and a beaver lodge, as jewel-winged damselflies and Red-winged Blackbirds fly overhead. Participants will also explore the marsh on foot as they visit the Swan Treatment Center, walk the boardwalk, and climb the observation tower.

**Specialty program—additional charge applies (see booking information on page 17).

Exploring the Kayak



Whether paddling solo or with a partner, kayaking provides a very intimate and tranquil approach to exploring the marsh ecosystem. After a brief lesson on paddling technique and kayak safety, participants will paddle past blooming water lilies, basking turtles, and a beaver lodge, as jewel-winged damselflies and Red-winged Blackbirds fly overhead. Participants will also explore the marsh on foot as they visit the Swan Treatment Center, walk the boardwalk, and climb the observation tower. **Additional rental fees may apply (see booking information on page 17).

Advanced Wilderness Kayaking (Full Day Program)



A days exploration into the far reaches of the Wye Marsh, where the Scouts will be in charge of packing a healthy, no-cook lunch, plus snacks for the group. There will be a break where we must adventure to our picnic site before paddling back to our base camp. Though it is only 3km this kayak adventure is for experienced paddlers only and will test their stamina and skills. **Additional rental fees may apply (see booking information on page 17).

CORE OUTDOOR SKILLS

SCOUTS CANADA

CORE OUTDOOR SKILLS

Winter Skills – Half Day Programs

Marsh Exploration by Snowshoe

What better way to combine physical activity with the pursuit of nature? With traditional-style snowshoes strapped to their feet, participants will head out into the snow-covered landscape to discover the many wonders that winter has to offer. Participants will also play a variety of games and activities designed to help develop balance and coordination skills.

**Additional rental fees may apply (see booking information on page 17).



Marsh exploration by Cross-country Ski

Not only is it fun, beautiful, and good for your health, cross-country skiing is an exhilarating outdoor activity for all ages and fitness levels. After an introductory lesson to cross-country skiing technique, with an emphasis on group and personal safety, participants are sure to increase their appreciation for winter as they glide their way along our snow-covered ski trails.

**Additional rental fees may apply (see booking information on page 17).



Winter Survival

A day to explore just how much you know about shelter and fire building in the snow. We will discuss the fundamentals specific to winter outings, before hiking out to our location where they must conquer the winter challenges before them by using teamwork to build a shelter and a fire. If a successful fire is achieved the group will indulge in some cedar tea.



NATURAL SCIENCE

General Interest Programs for all Scouts Canada Groups— Half Day Programs

Birds of Prey Show

This exciting program will give participants the opportunity to be brought face-to-face with the grace, majesty, power and intelligence of birds of prey. Participants will learn all about the different types of birds of prey, their habitats, adaptations, and life histories, all the while being delighted by these magnificent animals in flight. **Specialty program—additional charge applies (see booking information on page 17).



Wet 'N' Scaly Show

This exciting program provides participants with the opportunity to get up close and personal with some of Ontario's native reptile species. Participants will learn plenty of fun facts and identification tips, as well as discover the importance of environmental stewardship and the role that they can play in helping Ontario's Species at Risk. **Specialty program—additional charge applies (see booking information on page 17).



Marsh Mingle

Games, games, and more games! Educational, kinetic and fun, this program is sure to get its participants actively engaged in with each other as well as with the wildlife around them as many of the games have an environmental focus.



Pond Study

With dip nets in hand, students will learn about the many amazing adaptations the aquatic insects of the marsh possess, as well as what these insects can tell us about the water quality of the marsh. Students will also learn about the interconnectedness of all of the marsh inhabitants as they simulate an aquatic food web, and explore the surrounding habitat by foot.



GENERAL INTEREST

EXPERIENTIAL

GENERAL INTEREST

Ultimate Survival



This exhilarating simulation game demonstrates the interactions between predator and prey species, as well as the encompassing ecosystem. Taking on the role of carnivores, omnivores, and herbivores, participants will be challenged to obtain their specific survival needs as they navigate through a forested environment, all the while evading predator species bent on stealing their lives.

The Science of Snow



Participants will take an in-depth look at the mysterious white stuff that defines our Canadian winters. Through hands-on games, activities, and experiments, students will learn everything from snowflake formation and identification, to its influence on the plants and animals that call the Wye Marsh home during the winter season.

Team Building



Allow us to put the participants' teamwork skills to the test as we facilitate a series of nature-based team challenges, each one more demanding than the last. Leadership, trust, cooperation, communication and problem solving will all come into play as the participants strive for cooperative success.

Bannock Roasting



Bannock has been a staple food of wilderness explorers for centuries. Portable, nutritious, tasty and easy to make, bannock's legendary reputation continues as one of the best wilderness survival foods out there, not to mention a fun and engaging mid-day snack. After roasting their bannock to perfection over an open fire, participants will exercise their minds and bodies as they play a variety of outdoor games and activities.

Sweetwater Harvest



A truly Canadian experience, this seasonally limited program gives participants a firsthand look at maple syrup collection and production throughout the ages. Participants will have an opportunity to visit an active modern day sugar shack, bake bannock over an open fire, and listen to a First Nations legend of how maple syrup came to be, as well as engage their taste buds with a sweet and sugary drop of pure Canadian maple syrup.

PRICING

RESERVATIONS

Day Packages	Cost/Participant	Minimum Requirement
Independent Discovery (Unguided—Full Day)	\$7.50	20 participants
Half Day Programs (2hrs)	\$9.50	20 participants
Full Day Program (2 x 2hrs)	\$14.50	20 participants

❖ Facilities and trails are accessible to all physical levels.

Specialty Program Add-ons	Additional Costs/Participant	Notes
Canoe/kayak	+\$5.00	'Day Packages' rates (above) applies in addition to these specialty ad-ons
Birds of Prey/Wet n Scaly Shows	+\$5.00	
Snowshoe rental	+\$3.00	
XC Ski rental	+\$8.00	

Supervisor Discounts
1 supervisor per 5 participants: Complimentary

Overnight Packages	Cost/Participant	Minimum Requirement
Tent: One Night	\$15.00	10 participants
Tent: Two Nights	\$17.50	10 participants
Bunkhouse: One Night	\$20.00	15 participants
Bunkhouse: Two Nights	\$22.50	15 participants

Notes
'Day Packages' rates (left) apply for guided programming throughout your stay. 20 participant minimum is waved.

*Please refer to our 'Overnight Visitor Information' for additional information regarding our facilities.

Wye Marsh Comes to You	Cost*	Notes
Wet 'N' Scaly /Birds of Prey Shows(1hr)	\$350.00	Max. Number of Participants: 50
Snowshoeing	\$8.00/Participant	Min. 2 Sessions Max. Number of Classes/Session: 2
Team Building	\$8.00/Participant	

*Add an additional \$0.50/km if total travel distance is over 55/km.

REMINDERS

Planning

1. Submit Booking Request Form; 2. Await booking details 3. Submit \$190.00 non-refundable deposit to confirm your booking 4. Contact 705-526-7809 x205 or jpelletier@wyemarsh.com with any questions/concerns.

Payment

Payment of balance owing is due upon your departure by Visa, MC, money order, cheque, debit or cash and is based upon confirmed number of participants.

Cancellation Policy

Groups who cancel will be subject to the loss of their \$190.00 deposit.

Weather

Our programs run rain or shine. In the event of inclement weather, alternative programming will be provided until conditions improve. We recommend that participants dress in loose fitting layers and sport close-toed shoes. There is no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothing!

Waste

You will be required to take any garbage back with you. We will dispose of any recycling and compost generated during your visit.

Special Needs Equipment

Please let us know if you require the use of our all-terrain wheelchair.

Gift Shop

Souvenirs, light snacks and drinks are available for purchase under leader supervision.

RESERVATIONS



Curriculum Based Programs
 Experiential Learning
 Comprehensive & Fun
 Safe & Supportive Environment
 Environmental Stewardship
 Accessible to All Physical Levels
 English & French



WYE MARSH

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BOOKING CONTACT

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