

Boy Scout Merit Badges and the Saunders Springs Nature Preserve

The Saunders Springs Nature Preserve and its Annex offer Boy Scouts the environment and resources necessary to meet many of the requirements set forth to earn twenty different Merit Badges. Those badges which could be partially earned while visiting Saunders Springs include the following:

Back Packing—more than 10 miles of trails are available

Bird Study—a wide variety of native birds are located at the Preserve

Camping—an overnight camping site is available

Cycling—both recreational as well as mountain biking trails are available at the Preserve

Environmental Science—the Preserve is an environmental laboratory

Fish & Wildlife Management—feeding programs for fish, birds, and deer

Fishing—a stocked lake/reservoir is available for fishing

Forestry—more than 40 different KY native tree species are located at the Preserve

Insect Study—a wide variety of KY native insects are located at the Preserve

Mammal Study—more than a dozen different KY native mammals call the Preserve home

Nature—nature abounds at the Preserve with many distinct ecosystems

Plant Science—more than 300 different species of KY native wildflowers, trees and, shrubs

Soil & Water Conservation—sink holes, springs, streams, a reservoir are located there

Reptile & Amphibian Study—numerous types of reptiles and amphibians exist at the Preserve

Orienteering—100 acres of heavily forested land with major elevation changes

Fly-Fishing—a lake stocked with bass, catfish and bluegill

Hiking—more than 10 miles of trails are available

Geology—streams, karst formations (caves), storm water management, sink holes

Climbing—some steep cliffs available to practice rappelling

Mountain Biking—more than seven miles of trails with mountain biking “skills” features