



Provide your scouts with opportunities to connect with nature vital to their learning and development with badge programs led by professional naturalist staff and volunteers. Students will see science come alive and experience the benefits of outdoor learning through hands-on activities to observe and understand the natural world around us.

### **Brownie Badges**

**Bugs** *1 ½ hours, May-October*

Experience a bug's life at River Bend. Have story time as we learn about bugs, then go outside to observe them close-up. Count how many types of bugs you can find, and see where they live. Then make a bug craft to take home.

**EcoFriend** *1 ½ hours, year-round*

Adventure outside at River Bend Nature Center and become nature's best friend. Learn about and practice the Leave No Trace rule, safely make a campfire, visit animal homes, and more! Finally, leave River Bend a nice place for animals by picking up trash along the trail.

**Outdoor Adventurer** *1 ½ hours, year-round*

Become a fearless outdoor adventurer as we play and explore nature at River Bend! We will hike down to the Straight River and explore the shoreline, play some water games, learn how to tie knots for camping, and make recycled bird feeders.

**Hiker** *1 ½ hours, year-round*

Come earn your hiking badge at River Bend Nature Center! Learn about River Bend's trails, how to read a map, what to pack, and what you might find on your hike. Then hit the trails with a naturalist to play some trail games and learn about plants and animals you see.

**Outdoor Art Creator** *1 ½ hours, May-November*

Use nature as your inspiration as we create art! Create a nature journal with pictures, colors, or written descriptions of what you find. Create leaf rubbings, drawings, and play nature games outside.

### **Junior Badges**

**Geocacher** *1 ½ hours, May-November*

Learn all about Geocaching and how this sport is used world-wide! With instruction of a Naturalist, learn how to use a GPS, make an item to trade, and go on a geocaching adventure! Girl scouts will explore River Bend Nature Center's 743 acre of land on and off the trails. Long sleeves, long pants, and close-toed shoes are recommended.

**Flowers** *1 ½ hours, late April-August*

Join the River Bend Naturalists on a spring flower hike. Learn about the parts of a flower, their importance to the plants, and how flowers are used by humans. Go on a flower hike, make a flower journal, and learn about a super special flower that only grows in this small area of the world!

**Animal Habitats** *1 ½ hours, year-round*

Learn all about wild animals and their homes as you explore River Bend. Investigate animal homes and make one on your own. Learn how scientists classify animals and why some animals are endangered. See and learn about a Minnesota native endangered habitat.

**Outdoor Art Explorer** *1 ½ hours, year-round*

Head out on an inspirational hike to find art in nature. Make a nature imprint to take home, create a human-made "rainstorm", test out nature photography, and draw plans for your own birdhouse.



## **Cadette Badges**

### **Archery** *1 ½ hours, May– October*

Come shoot some archery at River Bend! Learn all about the parts of a bow and arrow, range commands, then take to the range for some practice. Finally, play some archery games in a friendly competition.

### **Trees** *1 ½ hours, year-round*

Come explore the wonderful world of trees at River Bend! Explore the forest at River Bend and identify the trees in the forest by making a booklet of tree rubbings to take home. Learn about tree parts, how they grow, and who uses them. See the steps of the oldest tradition in the area, maple syruping. Finally, learn about some issues facing our forests today and what you can do to help protect them.

### **EcoTrekker** *1 ½ hours, year-round*

Talk with a Naturalist and learn about the important Leave No Trace Principles. See first hand how recreational hiking and biking can negatively impact the environment. Help remove an invasive species from the area, and make art from trash.

## **Senior & Ambassador Badges**

### **EcoExplorer** *1 ½ hours, year-round\**

Learn about biodiversity of River Bend Nature Center, and see different species of plants and animals. Find out which ones are invasive and harmful to the biodiversity of River Bend. Then put what you have learned into action by helping to remove an invasive species. (invasive species removal can only be done May-November).

### **Water** *1 ½ hours, April-November*

Explore the waterway River Bend Nature Center is named after! Hike down to the Straight River and explore the creatures and rocks along the shoreline. Listen to the sound of the water and have water craft time by the river. Then get your geek on by conducting water quality tests and learning what they mean for the river. Finally, become an engineer as you devise a way to help clean polluted water.