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BSA



PLT

CORRELATION OF BSA MERIT BADGES TO PROJECT LEARNING TREE MATERIALS

THE COLLABORATION

The Boy Scouts of America entered into a Memorandum of Mutual Support with the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) in 2016. Part of the agreement entails the correlation of BSA program materials to SFI's award-winning environmental education program, Project Learning Tree (PLT).

PLT is designed for teachers and other educators, parents, and community leaders working with youth from preschool through grade 12. It offers lesson plans and activities for all ages that can be easily incorporated into existing curriculum or used in informal settings.

The correlation displayed on the following pages focuses on the six BSA merit badges listed below. This correlation is designed to assist merit badge counselors and Scoutmasters in helping Scouts meet the badge requirements.

- Environmental Science
- Forestry
- Nature
- Pulp and Paper
- Soil and Water Conservation
- Sustainability



The PLT activities identified here provide fun and inspiring approaches for completing various merit badge requirements. Please note that PLT will not satisfy all the requirements for any particular badge, but it can help Scouts meet a substantial proportion of the required content.

ACCESSING THE PROJECT LEARNING TREE CURRICULUM

Unless indicated otherwise, the correlation refers to activities in the PLT’s [Explore Your Environment: K-8 Activity Guide](#). Other PLT guides referenced in the correlation are shown in Table 1. PLT materials are available from shop.plt.org or by participating in an [online course](#) or [in-person](#) professional development workshop. [Contact your state’s coordinator](#) to find out about workshops in your area. To learn more about these and other PLT educational materials and offerings, visit the [PLT website](#).



PLT GUIDES REFERENCED IN BOY SCOUT MERIT BADGE CORRELATION	
ABBREVIATION	PLT ACTIVITY GUIDE
(none)	Explore Your Environment: K-8 Activity Guide
FoF	Exploring Environmental Issues: Focus on Forests
FOTW	Global Connections: Forests of the World
SFCC	Southeastern Forests and Climate Change
i-Tree	Teaching with i-Tree
GS	GreenSchools Investigations
E&S	Energy & Society Activity Guide
PWL	Exploring Environmental Issues: Places We Live
MSW	Exploring Environmental Issues: Municipal Solid Waste
BD	Exploring Environmental Activities: Biodiversity
BT	Exploring Environmental Activities: Focus on Risk Biotechnology Supplement

Note that activities marked with an asterisk () support the badge requirement but may require some modification.



ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE



BSA BADGE REQUIREMENT		PLT ACTIVITY	
NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	NUMBER AND TITLE	PART(S)
1	Make a timeline of the history of environmental science	1: Stepping Through Climate Science (SFCC)	Activity
2	Define environmental science terms	Glossary	
3.A (1)	Conduct experiment on how living things respond to environmental change	Nothing Succeeds Like Succession Life on the Edge	Part C Variation
3.A (2)	Conduct an experiment on greenhouse effect	The Global Climate	Enrichment
3.A (3)	Discuss what an ecosystem is	Field, Forest, and Stream	Activity
3.C (3)	Describe effects of waterborne pollution	Every Drop Counts	Enrichment
3.D (1)	Conduct an experiment to illustrate soil erosion by water	Water Wonders	Part B*
3.D (3)	Photograph an area affected by erosion	Water Wonders	Part B*
3.E (1)	Research an endangered species in state	Life on the Edge	Part B
3.E (2)	Research a recovered endangered or threatened species	Life on the Edge 3: Pesticides, Potatoes, and Biodiversity (BD)	Part B Activity
3.E (3)	Explore projects to improve habitat of threatened or endangered species	Life on the Edge	Part B
3.F (1)	Determine ways family can help reduce pollution	Waste & Recycling Investigation (GS)	
3.F (2)	Determine ways to conserve resources or use resources more efficiently	Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Peek at Packaging	Parts A and B Activity*
3.F (3)	Experiment on packaging materials to find out which are biodegradable	Peek at Packaging Renewable or Not?	Variation Part A

*Activity supports the badge requirement but may require some modification.

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BSA BADGE REQUIREMENT		PLT ACTIVITY	
NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	NUMBER AND TITLE	PART(S)
4.A	Analyze species found in study area and determine level of biodiversity	Discover Diversity Field, Forest and Stream 1: Monitoring Forest Health (FoF)	Activity* Activity Part A
4.B	Observe study area over time, reporting on observations	Field, Forest and Stream Nothing Succeeds Like Succession 1: Monitoring Forest Health (FoF)	Activity Part C Part A
6	Find out about career opportunities in environmental science	My Green Future	Enrichment

*Activity supports the badge requirement but may require some modification.





FORESTRY



BSA BADGE REQUIREMENT		PLT ACTIVITY	
NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	NUMBER AND TITLE	PART(S)
1	Create field notebook of tree species	Tree ID 1: Monitoring Forest Health (FoF) 1: Tree Benefits and Identification (i-Tree)	Parts A and B* Activity*
2.B	Examine tree growth ring patterns	Every Tree for Itself Tree Cookies	Variation Parts A and B*
2.C	Examine damage on trees	Trees in Trouble	Part A*
3.A (1)	Describe contributions forests make to economy	Global Goods What's in a Label? World Forest Tour (FOTW) 5: Understanding the Effects of Forest Uses (FOTW) 7: Exploring the World Marketplace (FOTW) 2: Tree Value (i-Tree)	Parts A and B Part A Activity Part A and Part B Activity
3.A (2)	Describe contributions forests make to social well-being	Forest in the City Our Federal Forests World Forest Tour (FOTW)	Activity Part A
3.A (3)	Describe contributions forests make to soil protection	Water Wonders Field, Forest, and Stream Soil Builders	Part B* Activity Part B*
3.A (4)	Describe contributions forests make to clean water	Water Wonders 6: Forest to Faucet (FoF) i-Tree Tools	Part B* Activity Hydro (Desktop App)
3.A (5)	Describe contributions forests make to clean air	7: Carbon on the Move (SFCC)	Activity
3.A (6)	Describe contributions forests make to wildlife habitat	Field, Forest, and Stream If You Were The Boss 2: Protected Areas: Issues and Analysis (BD)	Activity Activity Activity
3.A (8)	Describe contributions forests make to threatened and endangered species	Life on the Edge	Part B
4.A	Describe multiple use management	If You Were the Boss Our Federal Forests 4: Tough Choices (FoF)	Activity Activity Activity

*Activity supports the badge requirement but may require some modification.

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FORESTRY



BSA BADGE REQUIREMENT		PLT ACTIVITY	
NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	NUMBER AND TITLE	PART(S)
4.B	Describe sustainable forest management	Our Federal Forests What's in a Label? 6: Seeking Sustainability: A Global Response (FOTW)	Activity Activity Activity
4.E	Describe role of prescribed burning	Living with Fire 5: The Nature of Fire (FoF)	Background Parts A and B
5.A	Write a report about public or private forest	3: Who Owns America's Forest FoF)	Part B
5.B	Write a report about a wood-using operation	What's in a Label?	Activity
5.C	Take part in forest-fire prevention campaign	Living with Fire 5: The Nature of Fire (FoF)	Activity Parts C and D
6	Inventory hazard trees in local area	Trees in Trouble	Part A and Enrichment*
7	Write about forest consequences of different elements	Invasive Species Decisions, Decisions Living with Fire 7: Forest Invaders (FoF) 5: The Nature of Fire (FoF)	Activity Activity Activity Activity Parts A and B
8	Write about forester or forester career	My Green Career 3: Land Manager Role Play (i-Tree)	Enrichment Activity



NATURE



BSA BADGE REQUIREMENT		PLT ACTIVITY	
NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	NUMBER AND TITLE	PART(S)
1	Tell how plants are important to animals and name a protected plant	Field, Forest, and Stream Life on the Edge	Activity Parts A and B
2	Tell how animals are important to plants and name a protected animal	Field, Forest, and Stream Life on the Edge 2: Story of Succession (FoF)	Activity Parts A and B Parts A and B
3	Explain the term “food chain” and give examples	Soil Builders Web of Life	Part B* Activity*
4.G (1)	Identify species of wild plants	Tree ID	Activity*
4.G (2)	Collect and label seeds or leaves of plants	Tree ID	Activity*
4.H (1)	Collect and identify soils found in different layers of a soil profile	Soil Builders	Part A*

*Activity supports the badge requirement but may require some modification.



PULP AND PAPER



BSA BADGE REQUIREMENT		PLT ACTIVITY	
NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	NUMBER AND TITLE	PART(S)
1	Tell history of papermaking; describe role of paper in our society	Make Your Own Paper	Background and Variation
2.A	Describe ways pulp and paper industry plants, grows, and harvests trees	Every Tree for Itself Plant a Tree	Activity* Activity
2.B	Explain how the industry manages forests so supply keeps pace with demand	Every Tree for Itself Our Federal Forests If You Were the Boss	Activity Part A Activity
2.C	Tell how the industry incorporates sustainable forest management (SFM)	If You Were the Boss 6: Seeking Sustainability: A Global Response (FOTW)	Activity Activity and Enrichment
4	Describe how paper is made, recycled; make a sheet of paper	Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Make Your Own Paper What's in a Label?	Part B and Enrichment* Activity* Part B
6	List and share examples of paper/pulp products	Global Goods 8: Consumer Choices (FOTW)	Activity Activity
7.D	Visit a recycled paper collection or sorting facility	Reduce, Reuse, Recycle	Part B and Enrichment
8	Find out about careers in the papermaking industry	My Green Career	Enrichment

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SOIL AND WATER



BSA BADGE REQUIREMENT		PLT ACTIVITY	
NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	NUMBER AND TITLE	PART(S)
1.A	Tell what soil is and how it is formed	Soil Builders	Part A*
1.B	Describe three kinds of soil and how they differ	Soil Builders 1: Monitoring Forest Health (FoF)	Part A* Activity (particularly Forest Health Indicator: Soil Quality)
4.A	Explain what a watershed is	Water Investigation (GS) 6: Forest to Faucet (FoF)	Part II Activity
4.E	Explain what an aquifer is and why it is important	8: Regional Community Issues: The Ogallala Aquifer (PWL)	Activity
5.A	Make a drawing showing the hydrologic cycle	Water Wonders	Part A*
5.B	Demonstrate actions of water in relation to soil	Water Wonders 6: Forest to Faucet (FoF)	Part B* Activity
5.C	Explain how removing vegetation affects runoff	Water Wonders	Part B*
7.B	Plant trees, bushes, or vines	Plant a Tree	Activity
7.E	Describe actions that could correct local erosion, sedimentation, or pollution problems	Improve Your Place School Site Investigation (GS)	Activity Part II

*Activity supports the badge requirement but may require some modification.



SUSTAINABILITY



BSA BADGE REQUIREMENT		PLT ACTIVITY	
NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	NUMBER AND TITLE	PART(S)
1	Define sustainability	Renewable or Not? 5: Understanding the Effects of Forest Uses (FOTW) 6: Seeking Sustainability: A Global Response (FOTW)	Activity* Steps 4 and 5 Activity
2. Water – A	Plan to reduce water usage	Every Drop Counts Water Investigation (GS)	Parts A and B*
2. Water – B	Diagram where water comes from	Every Drop Counts Water Wonders 6: Forest to Faucet (FoF) Water Investigation (GS)	Enrichment Part A* Part A
2. Community – A	Design sustainable community	Improve Your Place 4: What Powers the Move? (E&S) 6: A Vision for the Future (PWL)	Activity Part B Activity
2. Energy – A	Compare energy sources	Exploration Energy! 2: May the Source Be with You (E&S)	Part A Activity
2. Energy – B	Plan to reduce energy consumption	Exploration Energy! Energy Investigation (GS)	Part B
2. Energy – C	Examine fuel and transportation usage	The Global Climate 5: In the Driver's Seat (E&S)	Part B Parts A and B
2. Stuff – B	Discuss effects of too much stuff	1: Introduction to Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) 2: Source Reduction (MSW) Waste & Recycling Investigation (GS)	Activity Parts A and C

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SUSTAINABILITY



BSA BADGE REQUIREMENT		PLT ACTIVITY	
NUMBER	DESCRIPTION	NUMBER AND TITLE	PART(S)
3.A	Explain how Earth's systems support life and interact with one another	Fallen Log Water Wonders Web of Life Field, Forest, and Stream Soil Builders The Global Climate 2: Story of Succession (FoF) 5: The Nature of Fire (FoF) 8: Climate Change and Forests (FoF) 3: Mapping the World's Forests (FOTW)	Activity Part A* Activity* Activity Part B* Parts A and B Parts A and B Parts A and B Parts A and B Activity
3.B	Tell how raw materials and products affect sustainability	14: Renewable or Not? Global Goods Peek at Packaging What's in a Label? 5: Understanding the Effects of Forest Uses (FOTW) 7: Exploring the World Marketplace (FOTW) 8: Consumer Choices (FOTW)	Activity* Activity Parts A and B* Parts A and B Activity Activity Parts A and B Activity
4.A	Discuss with family about plastic waste	Reduce, Reuse, Recycle Peek at Packaging	Parts A and B Activity*
4.D	Discuss with family about species decline	Web of Life Life on the Edge 2: Protected Areas: Issues and Analysis (BD)	Activity* Activity Activity
4.F	Discuss with family about climate change	The Global Climate 8: Climate Change and Forests (FoF) 1: Stepping through Climate Science (SFCC) 2: Clearing the Air (SFCC) 3: Atlas of Change (SFCC)	Parts A and B Parts A and B Activity Activity Activity

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