





Badge Requirements You Can Complete at Valley Forge National Historical Park



Before You Start

This guide will provide ideas on how to complete various badge requirements through self-guided visits to Valley Forge National Historical Park. This guide can be used by troops and scouts.

Badges with historical, natural, or recreational themes that can be applied to the park are included. The specific requirement numbers are indicated, the the requirement is underlined. Below each badge name is a description of an activity that can be done in the park. When applicable, specific park activities or events that meet the requirement are included.

As you complete your badge requirements at Valley Forge National Historical Park, please remember to adhere to park rules. Stay on trail at all times while you hike and observe wildlife, and do not run in or climb on historic structures or important monuments. Take as many photographs and written notes as you need; leave only your footsteps.

Be sure to record the time you spend doing educational programming or volunteer service in the park, since it can also be counted towards earning your Girl Scout Ranger Program patch.

Finally, use the Valley Forge website as your resource for maps, information on the park's natural and historic resources, park programming, and events.



Useful Links

Valley Forge website

<https://www.nps.gov/vafo/index.htm>

History and Culture of Valley Forge

<https://www.nps.gov/vafo/learn/historyculture/index.htm>

Volunteer Opportunities

<https://www.nps.gov/vafo/index.htm>

Calendar of Events

<https://www.nps.gov/vafo/planyourvisit/calendar.htm>

Trail Maps

<https://www.nps.gov/vafo/planyourvisit/maps.htm>

Valley Forge Nature Guides

<https://www.nps.gov/vafo/learn/nature/index.htm>

Girl Scout Ranger Program

<https://www.nps.gov/vafo/planyourvisit/girlscoutranger.htm>

Valley Forge Facebook Page

<https://www.facebook.com/ValleyForgeNHP/?fref=ts>

Landscapes and Structures of Valley Forge

<https://www.facebook.com/Landscapes-and-Structures-of-Valley-Forge-National-Historical-Park-131938543543566/?fref=ts>

National Register of Historic Places Documentation

<https://www.nps.gov/vafo/learn/management/index.htm>

Brownie Girl Scouts

Outdoors: Hiker (requirements 1-4)

Use the maps on the Valley Forge National Historical website to decide where to go. Once you have picked the right gear and packed a snack for energy, go on your hike! Be sure to try out a hiking skill while on the trail.

Investigation: Senses (requirements 1-3)

Look around the park and listen to the world. Valley Forge is home to 315 species of animals. Which ones can you see and hear? Walk along the trails during the spring and put your nose to work.

Healthy Living: My Best Self (requirement 2)

Eat and play in a healthy way at Valley Forge. Bring a healthy snack and eat at a picnic table outside of the Visitor Center. Once you are energized, walk the Joseph Plumb Martin trail a quarter of a mile up to the Muhlenberg Brigade Huts. The Joseph Plumb Martin trail is an 6.2 mile long loop that goes through the entire park. It is a popular place for people in the community to walk, run, or bike.

Artist: Painting (requirement 2)

Get outside and make some art in the park – paint the real world. There are many beautiful landscapes to paint, as well as important structures. Pick a quiet place to sit and paint near one of these places: Muhlenberg Brigade Huts, National Memorial Arch, or Washington's Headquarters. Just remember to clean up and leave your spot better than you found it!

Citizen: Celebrating a Community (requirements 4 and 5)

National Historic Landmarks are nationally significant historic places designated by the Secretary of the Interior because they possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States. The park itself is a national historic landmark, and two other buildings are listed. Be a landmark detective and see if you can find them! See if you can also find out why they are considered National Historical Landmarks.

Brownie Girl Scouts (continued)

Join a ceremony or celebration right here in the park. In addition to volunteer service and educational events, Valley Forge holds ceremonies and celebrations throughout the year. The Community Picnic in the Park is a great place to celebrate July 4th with family, food, and games. Attend the Veterans' Day Commemoration Ceremony in November and honor our nation's veterans. Find out what events are coming up here: <https://www.nps.gov/vafo/planyourvisit/calendar.htm>.

Outdoor Art Creator (requirements 1 and 4)

Find art ideas outdoors by going for a walk in the park! Observe and take notes on the favorite things you see on the way: meadows, huts, wildflowers, or Valley Creek, for example.

Be a nature photographer and take a photo or video of something interesting or new you find in the park.

Outdoor Adventurer (requirements 1, 2, and 5)

Start out playing outdoors in a new way by walking a new trail, hill, or visiting a part of the park you have never seen before.

Explore nature by going on a hike and writing your observations in a notebook. Just remember to follow "leave no trace" principles.

Care for the outdoors and participate in a service project at Valley Forge. Visit <https://www.nps.gov/vafo/getinvolved/volunteer.htm> to look at different opportunities such as Crayfish Corps and Weed Warriors.

Junior Girl Scouts

Practical Life: Independence (requirement 1)

Get transportation smart. There are many good reasons to take public transportation! How would you and your family get to Valley Forge National Historical Park from your house using public transportation? (Hint: Look for instructions on the Valley Forge website!)

Junior Girl Scouts (continued)

Healthy Living: Staying Fit (requirements 1 and 5)

Valley Forge is a great place to start moving. With 26 miles of trails to walk, run, bike, and horseback ride, there is something for everyone.

Help your family stay fit and bring them to the park with you to try a new way to exercise.

Digital Arts: Digital Photographer (requirement 2)

Valley Forge is a beautiful place with 3,466 acres of land with meadows, forests, historic buildings, and flowing water. Come visit and take tons of photographs. If you need inspiration, check out the Landscapes and Structures of Valley Forge Facebook page.

Animals: Animal Habitats (requirements 1 and 2)

Find out about wild animals that you can see in the park by researching on the Valley Forge website.

Visit the park and investigate an animal habitat as you walk through.

Athlete: Practice with Purpose (requirement 2)

Valley Forge is a popular place for people in the community to come and exercise. The Joseph Plumb Martin Trail is paved and runs for 6.2 miles through the park. Increase your endurance by coming to the park each weekend and trying to walk, run, or cycle farther each time!

Outdoor Art Explorer (requirements 3 and 4)

Find music in nature by recording sounds as you walk the park's trails – birds singing, Valley Creek splashing, or leaves crunching.

Be a nature photographer and come to Valley Forge at different times of the day (or just spend the day!) and take photographs each time. See how the shadows around the Muhlenberg Brigade huts and National Memorial Arch change throughout the day.

Cadette Girl Scouts

Outdoors: Trailblazing (requirement 2)

Get your body ready by holding practice hikes at Valley Forge. There are over 26 miles of easy to moderate level hikes to help get in shape for the big trip.

Outdoor Art Apprentice (requirements 1, 3, and 4)

Explore art outdoors by visiting Valley Forge during different seasons. Paint a photo or take a picture of your favorite place in the park, and go back a few months later. (We recommend coming as the fall leaves change color, or after a light snow).

Find music in nature by recording sounds as you walk the park's trails – birds singing, Valley Creek splashing, or leaves crunching.

Be a nature photographer. If you need inspiration check out the Landscapes and Structures of Valley Forge page on Facebook.

Senior Girl Scouts

Girl Scout Way – Senior Girl Scout Way (requirement 4)

Leave your environment better than how you found it. Participate in a service project at Valley Forge. Visit <https://www.nps.gov/vafo/getinvolved/volunteer.htm> to look at different opportunities such as Crayfish Corps and Weed Warriors.

Outdoor Art Expert (requirements 3 and 4)

Find music in nature by recording sounds as you walk the park's trails – birds singing, Valley Creek splashing, and leaves crunching.

There are plenty of beautiful landscapes and historic structures at Valley Forge, so come capture nature digitally. Check out the Landscapes and Structures of Valley Forge page on Facebook if you need inspiration.

Ambassador Girl Scouts

Artist: Photographer (requirement 2)

Valley Forge is a beautiful place with many different landscapes to photograph. For this requirement, focus on composition: shoot five landscapes. Need some inspiration? Check out the Landscapes and Structures of Valley Forge Facebook Page. This group brings together park and photography enthusiasts.

Naturalist: Water (requirements 3, 4 and 5)

Valley Creek is an exceptional-value stream that runs through Valley Forge. Find out about water issues and research what issues the creek faces, such as invasive species and inadequate upstream storm water management.

Explore water solutions and find out what is being done to protect the creek. Consider joining the Crayfish Corps and help remove invasive crayfish from Valley Creek.

Finally, educate and inspire your family, friends, and fellow Girl Scouts. Share what you learned about Valley Creek and what they can do to help.

Outdoor Art Master (requirements 1, 3, and 4)

Explore outdoor art by taking your painting out in the park. Remember to always Leave No Trace. Check out the Valley Forge website to see if any Art in the Park programs are going on: <https://www.nps.gov/vafo>.

Find music in nature by recording sounds as you walk the park's trails – birds singing, Valley Creek splashing, or leaves crunching.

Be a nature photographer. If you need inspiration check out the Landscapes and Structures of Valley Forge page on Facebook.

Ultimate Recreation Challenge (requirement 1)

Experience an ultimate adventure on a trail right here in the park. Walk the steep hills on the Mt. Joy and Mt. Misery trails, or hike part of the Horseshoe Trail that runs through the park. You can also sign up to run the annual 5-mile Revolutionary Run that happens in the park each spring.

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