

STEM

Eagle Required (or Sustainability)

Common at Merit Badge Colleges

Environmental Science Merit Badge

Ecology, pollution, and conservation through hands-on field study and experiments.

Typical time to complete: **6–10 weeks**

GOOD FIT IF YOU LIKE

Science

Outdoors & Nature

Animals

Tips for Earning This Badge

- 1 The field study requirement takes multiple outdoor sessions — plan it around a camping trip where you can observe an ecosystem over several days.
- 2 Choose an ecosystem you can revisit. Consistency in location makes the observations more meaningful.
- 3 The pollution experiments can be done at home with household materials — the pamphlet walks through each one clearly.
- 4 This badge pairs well with Sustainability if you want to knock out both Eagle alternatives (though only one counts toward Eagle).
- 5 Counselors want to see actual data and observations, not conclusions copied from a textbook — write down what you personally measured or noticed.
- 6 A common pitfall: waiting for one big field trip instead of several shorter observation sessions spread out, which is what most of the requirements actually call for.

Available at Merit Badge Colleges

This badge is commonly offered at merit badge college events hosted by councils and universities. A great way to knock it out in a weekend with an experienced counselor. [Learn how to find one near you.](#)

Official Requirements

We keep this page focused on tips and what to expect, not a copy of the requirement text — requirements get revised periodically, and scouts are generally held to whichever version was current when they started the badge (the same reason Scoutbook lets you filter by pamphlet version). For the exact, current wording, check your Scoutbook record for this badge or the official page below.

[Environmental Science on scouting.org](https://www.scouting.org/meritbadges/requirements/EnvironmentalScience/) 📄

Finding a Counselor

Ask your Scoutmaster for the council's merit badge counselor list. For popular badges, a parent in your troop may already be registered as a counselor. If your troop doesn't have one, your council's advancement chair can help connect you.

Tip: for this badge, look for counselors who work professionally in the field — a local vet, engineer, or IT professional makes an ideal counselor and often brings real-world context the pamphlet alone can't provide.