

## Mammal Study--Valencik

**LIMITED TO 16 SCOUTS – DEPENDING ON CURRENT CONDITIONS AND SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS. MASKS COULD BE REQUIRED EXCEPT WHEN EATING. We will let you know of any changes.**

Scouts are required to obtain a copy of the Mammal Study merit badge pamphlet, study its contents and be prepared to discuss all requirements with the counselor.

- **All items listed in bold text are prerequisites that MUST be completed prior to the event and emailed to the counselor 2 weeks prior to MB College.**
- Scouts are encouraged to download and use the workbooks, and have all requirements filled out before they arrive on the day of the event.

### Requirements:

1. Explain the meaning of "animal," "invertebrate," "vertebrate," and "mammal." Name three characteristic that distinguish mammals from all other animals.
2. Explain how the animal kingdom is classified. Explain where mammals fit in the classification of animals. Classify three mammals from phylum through species.
3. Do ONE of the following:
  - a. Spend 3 hours in each of two different kinds of natural habitats or at different elevations. List the different mammal species and individual members that you identified by sight or sign. Tell why all mammals do not live in the same kind of habitat.
  - b. Spend 3 hours on each of 5 days on at least a 25- acre area (about the size of 3 1/2 football fields). List the mammal species you identified by sight or sign.
  - c. **From study and reading, write a simple life history of one nongame mammal that lives in your area. Tell how this mammal lived before its habitat was affected in any way by humans. Tell how it reproduces, what it eats, and its natural habitat. Describe its dependency upon plants, upon other animals (including humans), and how they depend upon it. Tell how it is helpful or harmful to humankind.**
4. Do ONE of the following:
  - a. Under the guidance of a nature center or natural history museum, make two study skins of rats or mice. Tell the uses of study skins and mounted specimens respectively.
  - b. Take good pictures of two kinds of mammals in the wild. Record the date(s), time of day, weather conditions, approximate distance from the animal, habitat conditions, and any other factors you feel may have influenced the animal's activity and behavior.

- c. Write a life history of a native game mammal that lives in your area, covering the points outlined in requirement 3c. List sources for this information.**
  - d. Make and bait a tracking pit. Report what mammals and other animals came to the bait.
  - e. Visit a natural history museum. Report on how specimens are prepared and cataloged. Explain the purposes of museums.
  - f. Write a report of 500 words on a book about a mammal species.
  - g. Trace two possible food chains of carnivorous mammals from soil through four stages to the mammal.
5. Working with your counselor, select and carry out one project that will influence the numbers of one or more mammals.