

# PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Caption: Boy Scout Troop 1740 raises the flag at the refuge.

## **‘Ding’ Darling to host Badge University**

On Nov. 17, the J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel Island will host its first Merit Badge University for registered Boy Scouts of America. Support for the program comes from the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge (DDWS) and Tarpon Bay Explorers, the refuge’s recreation concession.

Scouts from around the nation will have the opportunity to earn up to two out of six badges being offered that day. They include Bird Study, Fish & Wildlife Management, Cycling, First Aid, Fishing, and Environmental Science.

Class sessions run from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 to 4 p.m. The non-fundable, non-transferrable cost is \$20 for classes, lunch, goodies, snacks, badge workbooks, and materials. Each class is limited to 15 scouts on a first-signup basis. To register, call 239-472-1100 ext. 249.

“We are looking forward to working more closely with scout groups,” said program organizer Ranger Monica Scroggin. “If our first Badge University goes well, we hope to expand to more opportunities for boy and girl scouts.”

### ABOUT DDWS

As a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, DDWS works to support J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge’s mission of conservation, wildlife and habitat protection, research, and public education through charitable donations and Refuge Nature Shop proceeds.

To support DDWS and the refuge with a tax-deductible gift, visit [dingdarlingsociety.org](http://dingdarlingsociety.org) or contact Birgie Miller at 239-472-1100 ext. 4 or [director@dingdarlingsociety.org](mailto:director@dingdarlingsociety.org).

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