

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Caption: Boy Scouts can earn their fishing and other badges at Merit Badge University.

‘Ding’ Darling to host second annual Badge University

On Oct. 26, the J.N. “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel Island will host its second annual 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, Photography, Cycling, Kayaking, Fishing, and Fly Fishing.

Class sessions run from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. The non-refundable, non-transferrable cost is \$20, which includes classes, badge workbooks and materials, lunch, goodies, and snacks. 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 closely again with scout groups,” said program organizer Ranger Monica Scroggin. “Last year was a great success despite the fact it was the first time around. We expect this year to be even better.”

To learn how to become a sponsor of Merit Badge University, contact Dot Voorhees at 239-472-1100 ext. 239.

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 profits.

To support DDWS and the refuge with a tax-deductible gift, visit dingdarlingsociety.org or contact Birgie Miller at 239-472-1100 ext. 4 or director@dingdarlingsociety.org.

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