

Academic Merit Badges

Throughout the year, the students will be encouraged to earn academic merit badges in their Areas of interests. Merit badges may be earned for any topic. Each merit badge has ten requirements, including a book report (oral or written), a writing assignment (story, poem, or report), and a math component (writing story problems about the topic). The last ten-fifteen minutes of each day is devoted to merit badge sharing, during which time the students perform give oral presentations or share what they have learned. I am including a couple of examples here.

DINOSAURS

Academic Merit Badge

Complete ten of the following requirements, including #1 and #2.

1. Read a book about dinosaurs.
2. Write ten story problems about dinosaurs.
3. Make a diorama of a dinosaur scene.
4. Write a journal entry for a dinosaur, showing how he spends his day.
5. Draw and label ten dinosaurs.
6. Write a story featuring a dinosaur.
7. Create a poster about dinosaurs.
8. Create a 3-dimensional sculpture of a dinosaur.
9. Write a poem about a dinosaur.
10. Create a cartoon strip of a dinosaur experience.
11. Make a slide show about dinosaurs.
12. Visit a dinosaur exhibit and write about the experience.
13. On a map, show where ten dinosaurs lived.
14. Make a timeline showing when different dinosaurs lived.
15. Write a "what-if" story about a modern-day dinosaur.
16. Make up your own requirement. Get it approved by your teacher.

ART

Academic Merit Badge

Complete ten of the following requirements, including #1 and #2.

1. Read a book about an artist.
2. Write ten story problems about artists or art supplies.
3. Write a biography of an artist
4. Make a timeline of the artist's life.
5. Recreate a work of art by the artist you have selected
6. Create a picture using the pointillism method; a Q-Tip makes a great dotting tool.
7. Create a clay sculpture.
8. Create a work of art with pencil.
9. Create a work of art with watercolor.
10. Create a work of art with pastels.
11. Create a work of art with charcoal.
12. Create a work of art with fingerpaints.
13. Create a work of art with chalk.
14. Create a work of art with markers.
15. Write a story to go with one of your works of art.
16. Make up your own requirement. Get it approved by your teacher.

As you can see, the possibilities are endless. In the past, students have earned badges in Karate, Spanish, Jazz Dance, Cheer, Cats, Rabbits, BMX, Pyramids, Greece, Football, Baseball, Poetry, Native Americans, Planets, NASA, Soccer, Animals, Sign Language, and National Parks, to mention a few. Once students complete all ten requirements for a badge, they will actually make a metal badge they can wear with pride. I hope your children enjoy learning and earning the badges as much as my students in the past have.