



## SCOUT SERVICE PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES AT GARDENS & PARKS WITH MASTER GARDENERS IN GULF STREAM COUNCIL

January 2012



### *For Scout Leaders*

This document is prepared to assist Scout Leaders identify service projects that can be done by units or an individual Scout. It will be updated every 4 to 6 weeks to delete projects completed and to add new materials. This publication is in its fourth year.

There are over 20 Master Gardeners plus several County Agricultural Agents and other volunteer coordinators who have said they will help Scout Leaders find projects, give advice about how to complete them and assist with gardening advancement demonstrations.

Scout Leaders should use these trained volunteers to enrich their Scouting Program.

This information provides E-mail & telephone contacts with Master Gardeners and volunteer coordinators at Gardens & Parks in Gulf Stream Council that you can ask questions and work out details for service projects. Listings are alphabetical by Scout District.

### *For Master Gardeners and Others*

Distribution is by E-mail from Round Table Commissioners. Scout Leaders give E-mail addresses to RT each month and keep them up-to-date. Scout Leaders can request the publisher to add E-mail addresses to a direct list as well.

If Scout Leaders contact you and you cannot help when they need it, please refer the Scout Leaders to Bill Skinner.

### *For Volunteer Coordinators at Sites*

If you do not see your upcoming project here, tell the publisher so you can have it included next

time. Each month this List should reach several hundred adult Scout Leaders.

When projects have been completed, let us know who assisted so that credit can be given and others encouraged to help your site. Lots of good things can be done using Scout volunteers.

## **GLADES COUNTY – HENDRY COUNTY – OKEECHOBEE COUNTY (Big Lake District)**

### *Glades County*

There are few Master Gardeners or Agricultural Agents in Glades County at this time. However, agents in Hendry County and Okeechobee County are assisting Glades County residents. Please contact Gene McAvoy or Dan Culbert, listed below.

### *Hendry County*

There are no Master Gardeners at this time, but Scout leaders should contact Gene McAvoy, Extension Agent III at the LaBelle office at 1085 Pratt Blvd in the Dallas B Townsend Agriculture Center.

**Phone:** 863-674-4092 or 863-983-1598 **Cell:** 863-673-5939 **E-mail:** GMcAvoy@mail.ifas.ufl.edu

Gene McAvoy is a former Scoutmaster and is in contact with Garden Clubs and Nature Area groups in the County. He can assist Scouts with information concerning service projects and Eagle projects. Gene would be glad to discuss any agricultural or horticultural challenges. Gene McAvoy would appreciate having Scoutmasters in Glades and Hendry Counties speak to him about some ideas. Please give him a call or Email.

### *Okeechobee County*

Scouts interested in horticulture or gardening can contact Dan Culbert, Extension Agent III for referral to

Master Gardeners or projects at:

Environmental Horticulture, 458 Highway 98 North,  
Ocheechee, FL 34972-2303

863-763-6469 Cell 863-697-0930

**Email:** [dfculbert@ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:dfculbert@ifas.ufl.edu) or [indianco@ufl.edu](mailto:indianco@ufl.edu)



*Butterfly Garden in Ocheechee on Main Street.*

This Ocheechee Main Street Garden has grown for a few years and needs some help by periodic pulling

weeds and trimming shrubs. Contact Dan Culbert if you can help. Also, contact Dan Culbert for more information on the Moore Haven, Lakeport, or Buckhead Ridge projects.

Dan Culbert says that Arnold's Wildlife Rehabilitation Center at 14895 N.W. 30th Terrace Okeechobee FL 34972-0941; Tele: (863) 763-4630 or **Email:** [suearnold@arnoldswildlife.org](mailto:suearnold@arnoldswildlife.org) The Center is always looking for helpers for numerous projects that include: design and build an animal habitat; design a water bird habitat for rehabbing water birds; repair or redo fencing. The Center is also starting a night time event for beginner astronomers where Scouts can help and learn too—with primitive camping available those nights. Also it is worth going to see the Panther and Bobcat that have been living together for some time. On the web at: [www.arnoldswildlife.org](http://www.arnoldswildlife.org).

## **INDIAN RIVER COUNTY (Indian River District)**

McKee Botanica Garden (formerly Monkey Jungle)  
350 U.S. Highway 1, Vero Beach, FL 32962  
772-794-0601  
[www.mckee garden.org](http://www.mckee garden.org)

Volunteer Coordinator, Al Smith, call ext. 113  
or **Email:** [volunteer@mckee garden.org](mailto:volunteer@mckee garden.org)  
Monday thru Friday, 9 AM to 12

## **Scout Special Service Project Opportunities**



This structure is the entry way next to the gift shop at McKee Gardens. A view just insdie the garden are some very large lilly pads growing on several bodies of water.

## **Gifford Community Garden**

At Gifford Youth Activity Center,  
43<sup>rd</sup> Ave & 49<sup>th</sup> St., Vero Beach  
Contact: Master Gardener John Beukers



772-563-0627 or **Email:** [JB20@comcast.net](mailto:JB20@comcast.net)

This is a teaching garden that is open to young people wanting to learn from several experienced Master Gardeners. The gardens are within the fence behind the sign above. Contact MG John Beukers to make arrangements to assist in the garden or to ask for help with issues and projects.

## **MARTIN COUNTY (Sailfish District)**

Extension Agents and Master Gardener Office  
2614 SE Dixie Highway  
Stuart, FL 34886 772-288-5654 or  
**Email:** [mbk123@ufl.edu](mailto:mbk123@ufl.edu)

**Mary McNulty**, Interim Master Gardener Coordinator

This office does not have a street number on the street, but it is a building facing north on the west side. The number is visible only if you drive into the parking lot.

Volunteers are invited to contact Mary McNulty for ideas about where they can help inthe County.

**PALM BEACH COUNTY**  
**(Lighthouse District, Osceola District & Tradewinds District)**

*Coast Guard Station and Bunker*

Peanut Island off 13<sup>th</sup> Street Marina, Riviera Beach  
 Open: Wednesday through Sunday Closed: Monday and Tuesday. Curator: Ruth Pelletier Cell: 843-325-9301 Gift Shop 561-848-2960

**Email:** ruth@ruthp.com

The land area is 5 acres. Desires: Slash Pine Trees and other salt tolerant plants. Foundation plants at Station House, saly. Palm Trees on grounds. Fruit trees. The areas are flat. Needs salt tolerant plants.



Check with Master Gardener Bill Skinner for potential sources of plants. Master Gardeners have provided some plants and Ruth Pelletier is getting them planted. Your Scout Unit could organize a p l a n t i n g

expedition to Peanut Island.

Dan Obyrch of Troop 336 carried out his Eagle Scout project this past summer. He and his crew of 26 boys and several adults removed the wooden trim (about 144 feet) from the bottom of outside walls and replaced with pressure treated lumber and painted. He placed a donated air conditioner in one room to protect exhibits from mildew. According to Ruth Pellitier, Dan supervised planting 30 to 50 plants, including trees and bushes, and removed some Brazilian Pepper trees that are invasive in Palm Beach County. And he trimmed Sea Grapes and other bushes. This is the 2nd Eagle Project this year. Mrs. Pellitier appreciates Eagles.

Scouts may be permitted to camp on property for small fee. Units need to arrange boat transportation from Sheriff, Ferry, Coast Guard or private boats from

the 13<sup>th</sup> Street Marina in Riviera Beach. Ferry normally charges \$10 per person over 5 years old for round trip.

Contact Andy Flack, the Sea Scouts Commodore and he will try to arrange for a boat if you have specific dates and times for your unit. Contact Ruth Pelletier to arrange your schedule, then contact Flack at 561-348-0423 or Email at [skippership777@yahoo.com](mailto:skippership777@yahoo.com).

**TORAH TOTS LEARNING CENTER** – Boca Raton -- Master Gardener Shelly Zacks needs assistance maintaining the garden areas at this school at Clint Moore and Military Trail in Boca Raton. She has worked on the gardens for eight years and would like some Scout units to help her from time to time. Contact Shelly Zacks at 561-498-2298 or [ShellyZacks@yahoo.com](mailto:ShellyZacks@yahoo.com) to make arrangements to meet her there.



**Museum & Garden**, Jog Road in Delray Beach, across from South County Civic Center at 4000 Morikami Park Road.

**SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS** – Bonsai Gardening work for interested older Scouts. Ed Whalen, Master Gardener, is a volunteer who helps keep the Bonsai Garden in nice presentation shape. He volunteers there every week all year long. He would be pleased to tutor Scouts about Bonsai and work with Scouts on gardening projects. Call MG Ed Whalen at 561-865-9211 or Email at [whalen\\_M@bellsouth.net](mailto:whalen_M@bellsouth.net) about learning and service at *Morikami*. Bonsai is a real skill to know in the future.



Entrance to the Mounts Botanical Garden in WPB

**Mounts Botanical Garden**, 531 N. Military Trail, West Palm Beach (north of Southern Ave & south of Belvedere Road)

FIRST SATURDAY EACH MONTH\* – Grooming the Garden starts at 8:30 AM to noon. Lunch is provided, if you stay and work until 11:30 AM. Children under 16 are requested to be accompanied by a parent or adult leader of group.

Before coming on the First Saturday, please call Lois Mahoney, Master Gardener, 561-432-6256 to make sure other events have not crowded out the Grooming. Wear long pants, hat and **bring gloves**. MG Mahoney will also lead tours of the garden for Scouts by appointment.

If you have any questions about other volunteer events, contact Volunteer Coordinator, Barbara Fricker, Mounts Botanical Garden, call 561-233-1796 or BFricker@pbcgov.org or Joy Le, Program Coordinator at 561-233-1747

**EDIBLE WILD PLANTS IN FLORIDA -- \*\***

MG Mark Fairchild will conduct a workshop on foraging for edible wild plants for Scouts interested knowing more about these issues for Wilderness Survival MB and other advancement requirements like poisonous plants. Contact him for arrangements to help your Scout troop at 561-429-9183 or lampinc@comcast.net.

**Arthur R. Marshall Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge**, 10216 Lee Road Boynton Beach, FL 33437



Lee Road goes west off of U.S. 441, south of Boynton Beach Blvd. Several projects are planned by staff and volunteers for this site.

Scouts can volunteer to clean up unwanted debris, place new plants, and spread mulch.

Check with Volunteer Coordinator Chuck Ryan at 561-735-6010 or [charles\\_ryan@fws.gov](mailto:charles_ryan@fws.gov).

If you have trouble reaching any of these folks, please let Bill Skinner know about it. During certain times of the year, there are a lot of volunteers at LWR who do not know these contact people. Maybe I can help you make contact faster.



**Special projects:** Eagle candidates are busy doing several projects at LWR. As soon as we receive details on what has been done, we will be able to tell you about new projects. Since this is Florida, we can be certain that:

- 1) Weeds need pulling from garden around visitor center. (This is an on-going need that can give service projects to several Scouts every couple of months.)
- 2) Brush is being cut away from some areas to allow visitors to see the marsh areas better. (This is an on-going need as well; some has been done and others need doing.)

The staff at LWR have provided a list of projects that you can get from MG Bill Skinner or LWR staffer Serena Rinker .

Two major general projects on this list are:

Plant native plant beds around visitor use areas & adopt for once a month Maintenance:

- Adopt a area for once a month maintenance.
- Design and Develop a brochure/display to encourage using native plants in landscape designs and what native fauna utilizes these areas.

Some of the other project are, for example, trails need twice a year maintenance. Help is needed with Everglades Day. Cleanup is needed at 20 mile Bend and Hillsboro. Benches are needed on trails. Wood Duck boxes need maintenance. There are lots of exciting project on the list.

Contact Sabrina Rinker at [Serena.Rinker@fws.gov](mailto:Serena.Rinker@fws.gov) or call at 561-735-6029 or 561-436-4518.

### ***St. Mary's Hospital Quantum House.***

The **Quantum House** is a 10 room facility for family of pediatric patients at St. Mary's Hospital. Executive Director Roberta Jurney (Tele: 561-494-0515 or Email: [rjurney@quantumhouse.org](mailto:rjurney@quantumhouse.org)) says that the place is nearly always full of parents and family who stay there to be with hospitalized patients from accidents or in need of special surgery.

Eagle Scout Jerry Lothes of Troop 197, West Palm Beach, constructed a 160 food concrete paver walkway in the back of Quantum House so that wheel chair patients could be taken to the butterfly gardens constructed by Master Gardeners.

The Master Gardeners are working every week at Quantum House. And they will be working during the upcoming winter.



Master Gardener John Moser (561-516-0711) and several other Master Gardener volunteers would appreciate from help in maintaining the butterfly garden. Moser needs help to install new plants and maintain this garden in West Palm Beach. Tuesday and Saturday (if you have a group) Mornings at 8:00 AM for a couple of hours until it gets hot.

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### ***PBC Department of Environmental Resources.***

Ann Mathews, Senior Environmental Analyst Palm Beach County Department of Environmental Resources Management 561-233-2426

[amathews@co.palm-beach.fl.us](mailto:amathews@co.palm-beach.fl.us)  
[www.co.palm-beach.fl.us/erm](http://www.co.palm-beach.fl.us/erm)

Ann Mathews will help Scout Leaders design projects to help implement county needs. Ann had some projects in December that we were unable to publish.

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### ***PERSLEY COMMUNITY GARDEN \*\****

This is a project of Auroras Voice, a charity caring on the work of Gandhi and Martin Luther King. The garden is located at 13 NW 10th Avenue, Delray Beach.

Master Gardener Betsy Pickup recommended that Pablo del Real contact us to be listed for Scout Service Projects. The garden is looking for several items, pathway, 3-bin composting system, and irrigation. Contact Pablo del Real at [pablo@p-poll.org](mailto:pablo@p-poll.org) or at 561-901-3467.

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### **GARDENING MERIT BADGE**

**H**ere is one elective merit badge that you can use for the rest of your life. Growing plants is easier in Florida than in many places, but it is different. You need to learn what is different from up north if you want to know how to get a Florida "green thumb."

On page 7 requirement no. 3 is discussed. Any kind of seeds will do, as long as you plant 100. But if you did palm trees and grew them tall, you could sell them later. To a Scout it could be a scholarship fund for higher education. Here are the other requirements.

1. a. Grow six vegetables, three from seeds and three from seedlings, through harvest.
1. b. Grow six flowers, three from seeds and three from seedlings, through flowering.
2. Give the food value of:
  - a. Three root or tuber crops.
  - b. Three vegetables that bear above ground.
  - c. Three fruits.
3. See page 7.

*Continued on page 8...*

**MASTER GARDENERS  
WILLING TO WORK WITH SCOUTS  
IN PALM BEACH COUNTY**

**MG Keith Haynes** – Delray Beach, retired physician, 561-296-8977

**MG Mark Fairchild** -- WPB -- Foraging workshops, 561-429-9183 or Lampinc@comcast.net\*\*

**MG Carlene Ferrell** – Lantana, former teacher and former Scouter, 561-588-2127

**MG Simeon Hetherington** – long-time Scouter, 561-602-1762 or simeon4914@gmail.com

**MG John Moser** – Century Village, 561-516-0711

**MG Lynn Neff** – Lake Worth, retired forester, 561-493-0745

**MG Dick Pase** – Jupiter, former Scouter, 561-746-5723 or paser@bellsouth.net

**MG Lois Mahoney** – West Palm Beach, retired nurse, 561-432-6456

**MG Bill Skinner** – Lake Worth, active Scouter and retired pharmacist/attorney, 561-433-1170

**MG Ed Whalen**, Boca Raton, 561-858-9211 or whalen\_M@bellsouth.net

**MG Shelly Zacks** – Boca Raton, 561-498-2298 or ShellyZacks@yahoo.com

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*VA Medical Center, 7305 N. Military Trail,  
Community Living Center, West Palm Beach*



The Horticulture Therapy Program needs volunteers to assist recovering veterans. On Tuesdays, 1:00 to 2:00 PM, Dr. Maura Miller, works on horticulture projects with veterans and would appreciate some volunteers contacting her to assist. There are four gardens used – flowers, fruits, and raised beds for growing seeds and stepping up plants to larger containers. Projects needs includes helping patients and building platforms for plants.

If you are interested in this kind of service project up to a maximum of four times per year, but you are not available on Tuesdays, please contact Dr. Miller to work out a special schedule to work under her supervision.

**Scout Special Service Project Opportunities**

Dr. Miller may be contacted at 561-707-2129 or [Maura.miller@va.gov](mailto:Maura.miller@va.gov). If you want a more long range more time-consuming, service project, you can find out

**ST. LUCIE COUNTY (Treasure Coast District)**

Heathcote Botanical Garden, 210 Savannah Road, Ft. Pierce, FL      Tele: 772-464-4672

[info@heathcotebotanicalgardens.org](mailto:info@heathcotebotanicalgardens.org)

Garden Volunteers meet 9am – 1pm on Wednesdays with special projects by appointment.



Past Eagle Scout projects include irrigation installation, tree planting, construction of a Japanese Tea House, new entry gate, bat houses and garden benches.

Contact Amy Dahan, Garden Director to discuss individual or unit projects.

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**Master Gardeners willing to assist Scouts and their projects in St. Lucie County.**

**MG Les Whiddon**, Ft. Pierce, FL 772-460-2668 or [Leswhiddon@comcast.net](mailto:Leswhiddon@comcast.net)

**MG Richard Coan**, Port St. Lucie, FL ; 772-807-2725 , retired pharmacist, MG 26 years

**MG Chris West**, Port St. Lucie, FL 772-879-2841 or [cwestpsl@bellsouth.net](mailto:cwestpsl@bellsouth.net), a Cub Scout Leader

**MG Nichole Rouse**, Port St. Lucie, FL 772-344-2642 or [scubagr@hotmail.com](mailto:scubagr@hotmail.com)

Also contact Kate O'Neill, Community Coordinator, St. Lucie County Extension Office for service project ideas - 772-462-1660 or [kasmi@ufl.edu](mailto:kasmi@ufl.edu)

*Continued on page 7...*

**GARDENING MERIT BADGE\*\***

**R**equirement no. 3 out of 6 for the Gardening Merit Badge is to “test 100 seeds for germination. Determine the percentage of seeds that germinate. Explain why you think some did not germinate.”

This requires 100 seeds, some pots, some dirt, water and sunlight, plus time and patience. Of course, it might be good to research what is known about growing the seeds you have before starting. Start with the merit badge booklet. Find out about how deep, how long, water and sun.

Many seed companies do germination studies and check the germination rate, then print it on the package. People who do germination tests for seed companies may be full-time or part-time employees of the seed companies. Some independent germinators live in Florida.

Growing some seeds can also generate money. Once the seeds germinate and grow a bit, they are “stepped-up” to a bigger pot, then a bigger pot, depending on what the plant is. This is what plant nurserymen do. This work is a large money maker in Florida. If you learn this process you can also have a great garden.

Take palm trees for example. If you were to pot 100 seeds of coconut palms this will take a large area of your yard. Planting 100 seeds of foxtail or queen palms will take much less space. With palm trees it takes more time to see growth than with flowers or herbs. First the hard shells of palm seeds have to be penetrated by water, air and sunlight. This may take months for coconuts and most palms.

But the time may be worth the effort because once you have the palm tree at the 3 to 4 foot level they can be sold for \$10 to \$25; when they are 8 to 10 feet, the price may go up to close to \$100 for some palms.

Gardening Merit Badge ought to be a ‘no brainer’ for Scouts in Gulf Stream Council. We have the best place in the country to grow vegetables, fruit trees, and nursery plants. All of the counties in Gulf Stream Council have lots of agriculture, horticulture and other growing work.

This means jobs are still here for growers. Scouts should learn gardening to get a start on a job or hobby that can last a lifetime. There are Master Gardeners here to guide you if unit leaders will only ask.

Contact Master Gardener Bill Skinner for 100 foxtail palm or Queen Palm seeds if one of your Scouts is working on the merit badge.

**Do A Good Turn Daily**

The Scout Slogan does not mean you are to do *one* Good Turn during the day and then stop. It means looking for chances to help throughout each day, then helping quietly, without boasting. Doing Good Turns should become an automatic, normal part of your life.

Remember always that a Good Turn is an extra act of kindness. It is not just something you do because it is good manners.

Adapted from the 1979 Official Boy Scout Handbook.

**Service hours** done from this list will qualify for service hours for



Scouts, school, and can even be turned into an Eagle Service project by a Scout. Please remember to report all service hours to the Journey to Excellence website.

[www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Awards/JourneyToExcellence.aspx](http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/Awards/JourneyToExcellence.aspx).

**MERIT BADGE COUNSELORS\*\***

**T**he *Guide to Advancement 2011* is available on [www.Scouting.org](http://www.Scouting.org). Counselors must register, but pay no fee if using position code 42 on the Adult Registration Form. This and other new explanations are at pages 36 to 43 of this new document.

MGs Email Bill Skinner at [WJSWTG@aol.com](mailto:WJSWTG@aol.com) if you want a copy of these 8 pages Emailed to you.

**Gardening Merit Badge -- Cont'd from page 5...**

4. Visit your county extension agent's office, local university agricultural college, nursery, or botanical garden or arboretum. Report on what you learned.
5. Identify five garden pests (insects, diseased plants). Recommend two solutions for each. At least one of the two solutions must be an organic method.
6. Do ONE of the following:
  - a. Build a compost bin and maintain it for 90 days.
  - b. Build a vermipost bin (worm compost bin) and maintain it for 90 days.
  - c. Build a hydroponic garden containing three vegetables or herbs, or three ornamental plants, Maintain this garden through harvest or flowering, or for 90 days.
  - d. Build on water garden, either in a container (at least 12 by 6 inches and 6 inches deep), on in the ground as a small, decorative pond no larger than 6 by 3 feet and 24 inches deep. Maintain the water garden for 90 days.

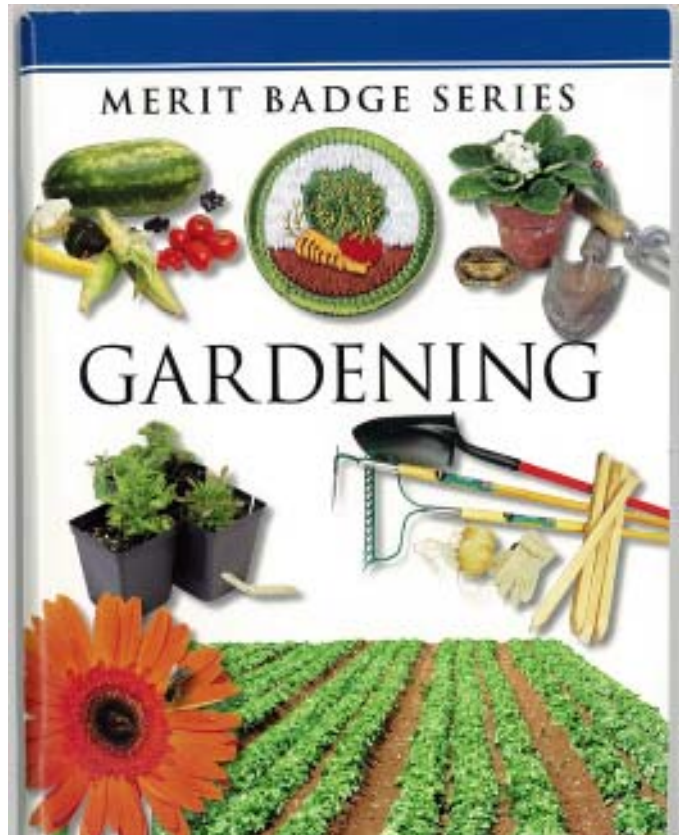
THAT is all there is to it.

You will find 80 pages of guidance and background material in the Gardening Merit Badge booklet, the cover of which is shown at the upper right.

This includes three pages of gardening resources. And it includes photographs and diagrams showing you how to make what you need to pass the requirements.

Master Gardeners in Florida know where to find other resources to assist gardeners and home owners. There are more than 7,000 research articles on various growing issues maintained by IFAS on EDIS -- that is the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences has an Electronic Data Information Source.

IFAS can be found at [www.ifas.ufl.edu](http://www.ifas.ufl.edu) and it is easy to use. Give it a try when you have a question.

**☒ Counseling with a Scout.**

By the time a boy is out of the 5th grade and ready for Scouts he is about 12 years old. The boy asks to meet with a counselor when he thinks he can do the merit badge or has already started doing some of the requirements and wants to get credit for doing them.

As a minimum, a counselor would meet with a Scout a couple of times, this could be more. Scouting has rules that no boy can be alone with an adult so the boys come in pairs. An adult may accompany them to meet the counselor.

At the first meeting, the counselor ascertains where the boy is in his work on the requirements and what plans he has for completing them. If desired, the counselor can visit the Scout's garden or ask for photographs if this is within the Scout's ability to provide.

At a second meeting, remaining requirements are reviewed, questions are answered and final reviews are scheduled. The Scout does the work, the Counselor observes and asks questions to see if the Scout understands. Counselors give special tips if they have some.

The Scout will bring a blue Merit Badge card for recording what was done and it may be that the Scout will not complete everything for some reason. In that case, the parts that were satisfactorily completed are noted and the card is signed and given to the Scout.

**☒ There are printed materials that explain this in more detail. Every Master Gardener can master the steps.**