

Dear Parents and Leaders: Use this guide to facilitate fun and learning for your scout as she works to complete the Cadette Night Owl badge. This badge requires participation in one of the Virginia Aquarium's evening events. Check our events calendar to find an overnight or other evening activity in which you can participate.

Step 1: Take a field trip to explore the night.

Recommended Exhibits: Red Sea Tunnel, Norfolk Canyon Aquarium, and/or Light Tower Aquarium

Encourage your scout to.....

- Locate her favorite animal at the Aquarium or one of our nocturnal animals.
- Sit and observe the animal for at least 5 minutes.
- Record observations about its habitat and behavior.

Step 2: Tour your world after dark.

Recommended Exhibits: Marsh Loop or Nature Trail or complete this requirement at home.

Encourage your scout to.....

- Find a very dark spot and attempt to draw a picture of a house. For an added challenge, give your scout a crayon for the drawing and have them guess what color it is.
- When you get back inside, look at the drawing. Was she able to correctly guess the color while outside/in the dark? Discuss how limited visibility impacts how we interpret our surroundings.
- Have your scout be very quiet and listen to her surroundings. What sounds does she hear? Are they man-made or natural? Can she identify those sounds? What animals are making those sounds? What sounds does she hear that she normally wouldn't?

Step 3: Meet people who work night hours.

Recommended Exhibits: N/A

Encourage your scout to.....

- Find an Aquarium staff member working the evening or overnight event.
- Ask them what a typical night shift is like for them.
- Ask them how working nights/evening impacts their daily life.
- Make a list of pros/cons about working at night.

Step 4: Explore nature at night.

Recommended Exhibits: Norfolk Canyon, Chesapeake Bay Aquarium, Marsh Pavilion

Discuss with your scout....

- While at the Aquarium or once you get home, encourage your scout to be creative and design her own nocturnal animal.
- Use the exhibits as inspiration for interesting adaptations nocturnal animals possess.
- If needed, ask a staff member about special abilities of some of our nocturnal animals or research nocturnal animal adaptations on the internet for more inspiration.

Step 5: Host an extreme nighttime party.

Attend an overnight event at the Aquarium or a nighttime party. Turn off the lights, and tv, and shut down your electronics. Pretend you live back in the day when there was no electricity. Figure out how to find your way in the dark, cook food, and have fun without the power.