

Genealogy Merit Badge



at the State Library & Archives of Florida

The State Library & Archives of Florida is now offering a program for Boy and Girl Scout troops with members interested in learning how to conduct genealogical research. Through a class presented at the State Library & Archives of Florida, Boy Scouts can earn all but one of the requirements for the Genealogy Merit Badge, and Girl Scouts can earn all but one requirement for an equivalent council-supported patch program. See the back of this flyer for the full list of requirements.

The class is offered by appointment and can be scheduled for either a single 4-hour Saturday session (with a lunch break in the middle) or two 2-hour sessions on weekday evenings. Times are flexible and may be arranged when scheduling the class. The program is conducted by State Library & Archives staff members in the research facility at the R. A. Gray Building in downtown Tallahassee.

Groups must be accompanied by at least one adult leader, and all participating youths must have written permission from a parent or guardian to use the Internet for genealogical research. We recommend that all participants be at least 12 years old and that groups be limited to 10 participants.

The program is offered free of charge. Troop leaders are responsible for purchasing the appropriate patches/badges upon completion of the program.

Contact us to schedule a class or get more information:

Josh Goodman
850.245.6313
archives@dos.myflorida.com

We're located at:

500 S. Bronough St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399
(The same building as the Museum of
Florida History)

Free parking is available in the garage
adjacent to the building.

Requirements

1. Explain to your counselor what the words “genealogy,” “ancestor” and “descendant” mean.
2. Do ONE of the following:
 - a. Create a time line for yourself or for a relative. Then write a short biography based on that time line.
 - b. Keep a journal for six weeks. You must write in it at least once a week.
3. With a parent’s help, choose a relative or a family acquaintance and interview them in person, by telephone, or by email or letter. Record the information you collect so you do not forget it. **(Scouts will complete this requirement on their own after the class.)**
4. Do the following:
 - a. Name three types of genealogical resources and explain how these resources can help you chart your family tree.
 - b. Obtain at least one genealogical document that supports an event that is or can be recorded on your pedigree chart or family group record. The document could be found at home or at a government office, religious organization, archive or library.
 - c. Tell how you would evaluate the genealogical information you found for requirement 4b.
5. Contact ONE of the following individuals or institutions. Ask what genealogical services, records or activities this individual or institution provides, and report the results.
 - a. Genealogical or lineage society
 - b. Professional genealogist (someone who gets paid for doing genealogical research)
 - c. Surname organization, such as your family’s organization
 - d. Genealogical educational facility or institution
 - e. Genealogical record repository of any type (courthouse, genealogical library, state or national archive, state library, etc.)
6. Begin your family tree by listing yourself, and include at least two additional generations. You may complete this requirement by using the chart provided or the genealogy software program of your choice.
7. Complete a family group record form, listing yourself and your brothers and sisters as the children. On another family group record form, show one of your parents and their brothers and sisters as the children. This requirement may be completed using the chart provided or the genealogy software program of your choice.
8. Do the following:
 - a. Explain the effect computers and the Internet have on the world of genealogy.
 - b. Explain how photography (including microfilming) has influenced genealogy.
9. Discuss what you have learned about your family and your family members through your genealogical research.