

CAMP GRAHAM



Junior Ranger

Our Own Council's Badge



Girl Scouts®

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energy in the development of this Our Own
Council's Camp Graham Junior Ranger badge.*

Girl Scouts – North Carolina Coastal Pines
Our Own Council’s
“Camp Graham Junior Ranger” Badge

The National Park Service has developed Junior Ranger programs for elementary and middle school children that are specific to each national park to help the children learn about the ecology, history, and unique features of that park, and to introduce them to hiking and exploring the park. Thanks to a volunteer’s effort, we now have a Junior Ranger badge that girls and their troops in Girl Scouts – North Carolina Coastal Pines may choose to earn. While visiting Camp Graham, Junior Girl Scouts who complete this badge become more intimately acquainted with the history, ecology, and resources of Camp Graham and the sandhills of Kerr Lake.

To earn this badge, girls must complete 6 of the following requirements.

- 1. Camp Graham History.** Every camp has a unique character and history. Camp Graham is located on a state reservoir, giving it an aquatic flavor. Investigate the history of Camp Graham by learning the answer to four of these questions:
 - How were Camp Graham, units, and dining hall named?
 - How did Girl Scouts – North Carolina Coastal Pines acquire the land?
 - Do we own or lease the land?
 - What does it mean to lease rather than own land?
 - Other than troop/event camping, how is this camp used?
 - Identify the flags in the dining hall. Why are they there?

- 2. Around Camp.** Learn more about Camp Graham by taking the grand tour! Remember to practice good hiking manners and safety. Ask permission before entering or crossing a campsite that is occupied. Look for signs of wildlife. Did you see any birds, animals, or fish? Did you see other signs of wildlife, such as animal tracks, scat, chewed branches, middens, or animal dwellings? Include one of these sites/activities in your tour.
 - Whippoorwill, Trailblazer, Holly Hill, Kay McGavran
 - Dining Hall
 - Walk across the swinging bridge
 - View the waterfront from one of the units, rather than the boating area
 - Basketball court/goal area
 - Volleyball area
 - Amphitheatre
 - Walk the Breezycreek trail or the trail to the point at Kay McGavran
 - Visit the boating/swimming area

- 3. The Waterfront at Camp Graham.** Camp Graham is noted for aquatic activities. Adult, girl, and parent/daughter waterfront events are held here each year. Experience the waterfront by completing one of the following activities:
 - Remember *Safety-Wise* and learn the requirements for participating in boating or swimming activities. What type of training must the supervising adults have?
 - Learn about safety at the waterfront. Learn how to properly select and use a PFD. Learn about the buddy system and how it is used at the waterfront. What are other safety rules for the waterfront?
 - Experience swimming or boating at your level. Select one of the following: canoeing, kayaking, sailing, swimming. If you are a novice, participate in an activity that teaches you the basics of the sport and allows time to practice. If you have some experience, participate in an activity that provides more creativity or skill development. For example, play one of the on-water games from

“Make A Splash”, canoe/kayak/sail a short course, or try a short race with others who have similar skills.

4. Non-Aquatic Camp Resources. Become acquainted with some of the educational and recreational resources that Girl Scouts – North Carolina Coastal Pines provides at Camp Graham by choosing one of these activities. Remember to follow all Safety-Wise guidelines.

- Check out one of the Linking Girls to the Land backpacks and do at least 2 activities from the pack.
- Play a game of basketball or volleyball on the respective courts. Balls and nets can be checked out from the ranger.
- Check out the cane fishing poles, and try to catch a fish at the fishing dock. Girl Scouts – North Carolina Coastal Pines practices catch and release fishing.
- Put on a show/skit at the amphitheater stage.

5. History of Boating. Camp Graham is known as an aquatic camp; it is a terrific location for boating. Learn more about the history of boating and the people who made history on or near the water by completing the following activity.

- Select one of the following crafts: canoe, kayak, or sailboat. Research the history, development, and uses for your craft.

6. Camp Graham / Kerr Lake Nature Study. Become acquainted with the diversity of life (seen and unseen) by choosing one of the following activities.

- Visit the area of your unit near the water’s edge. Walk quietly around this area in the morning, at mid-day, and in the evening. Stop occasionally and listen, observe changes in light and wind, look for all signs of life. Record your observations at each visit. What changes do you notice from morning until evening?
- Go on a nature hunt. Find at least 20 of the following items. Record the location of each. Do not harm or displace any living thing.
 1. Bluebird house
 2. Duck house
 3. Poison ivy
 4. Snake
 5. Turtle
 6. Fish
 7. Heron
 8. Hawk
 9. Frog
 10. Wildflower
 11. Songbird
 12. Lizard
 13. Squirrel
 14. Fox
 15. Raccoon
 16. Rabbit
 17. Duck
 18. Canada goose
 19. Bees
 20. A spider web with a spider in it
 21. Squirrel midden
 22. Barnacles or shellfish growing on a dock
 23. Water bugs
 24. Two different shades of sand
 25. Driftwood washed up by the lake
 26. A rock near the lake that is worn smooth by the action of the water
 27. A rock with quartz in it
 28. A sedimentary rock
 29. A metamorphic rock
 30. Mica crystals
 31. Lichen
 32. Algae
 33. A tree that is growing in the lake
 34. Evidence of past high water lines
 35. A decaying log with a seedling growing out of it.
 36. Bracket fungus
 37. Mushroom
 38. Loblolly Pine
 39. 3 hardwood trees – identify them
 40. Other coniferous tree – identify it

- 41. A stump with new shoots growing out of it.
- 42. An area that is being reseeded
- 43. Evidence of erosion
- 44. A tree that has had soil washed out from under its roots.

- 45. A bird's nest in a tree
- 46. A bird's nest in a bird house
- 47. The Big Dipper
- 48. The Little Dipper

- Learn about the diversity of animal life in the piedmont region by attending a ranger program at one of the state parks on Kerr Lake.

7. Waste Management. Cooking on board ships or cooking on boating/camping trips requires careful planning. Space is limited for storage of food, supplies, equipment, and waste. Fires must be restricted in size and safely managed. All waste must be packed out. Refrigeration is very limited or non-existent. Planning for these conditions, on board a ship or at your unit, is good environmental practice, as it will lessen your environmental impact. Practice good waste management by choosing one of these activities.

- Pre-plan all of your meals with waste reduction and recycling opportunities in mind. Then practice recycling throughout the weekend. Recycle each of the following items and take them to a recycling center near your home. **DO NOT CONTAMINATE THE RECYCLING STREAM WITH DIRTY OR INAPPROPRIATE ITEMS!** This is worse than not recycling at all and will result in the entire bin being sent to the landfill. Check with your local recycling or waste management organization for the guidelines in your area.
 - Tin cans – rinse all food from the can.
 - Aluminum cans, foil pans, and foil – wash (with soap and water) all food from the can, pan, or foil. No food-contaminated foil!
 - Mixed paper – clean, dry, non-food contaminated paper.
 - Milk jugs and soda bottles – rinse the containers to remove milk and sugary liquids.
 - Newspaper – clean and dry.
 - Any plastic bottle with a recycling symbol on the bottom and a plastic number in the triangle – it must be a bottle with a neck and an opening smaller than the body, rinse all material from the bottle. No jars. No lids.
 - Glass – clear, green, or brown bottles. Rinse all material from the bottle. No lids. No broken glass.
 - Glossy paper – clean and dry
 - Corrugated cardboard – clean and dry. Must have the wavy, corrugated layer in the middle.
 - Batteries – alkaline or regular.
 - Styrofoam – peanuts, boxes, or sheets. Must be polystyrene type. Break molded types into pieces.
 - Film Canisters – the empty, plastic containers.
 - Food – raw, cooked, or processed. Leftovers or uneaten food off of plates. No animal products, no fats.
- Plan and prepare one meal that is cooked entirely over a small fire using no more than two pots (including the pot to heat water for cleaning). The food for this meal must not require any refrigeration or special storage.
- Plan and prepare one meal that is cooked entirely on a one- or two-burner propane camping stove. The food for this meal must not require any refrigeration or special storage. Do not use a ground fire at all during this meal for cooking, heating, or clean-up.

8. **Regional/Reservoir History.** Kerr Lake is a man-made reservoir. Prior to building the dam, this area was a river basin. Learn more about the history of the area and the lake by completing the Kerr Lake History Hunt.
9. **Service Project.** Talk with the ranger about what the camp needs. Then, plan and complete a service project for the camp.
10. **Mariner Myths and Legends.** For centuries, aquatic animals have inspired wondrous and terrifying stories. Sailors and early explorers encountered creatures that had never been seen by anyone in their homeland and that they did not understand. These men spent months at sea, subject to the hardships of the elements, poor food, harsh working conditions, exhaustion, and long periods of isolation. An active imagination, superstition, limited (if any) formal education, a belief in magic, mystery and the supernatural, and a desire to impress others combined to produce tales of “mermaids, monsters, and sea serpents too terrible to mention”, such as the legend of the Loch Ness monster. Often the mythical creatures were based upon an encounter with a real sea creature. Actual characteristics were exaggerated and magical or supernatural attributes were added. Thus, the manatee became a mermaid. An octopus became a “creature that eats fish and other things in the ocean. It has a parrot-like beak in the middle of long tubes. It swims by forcing water out of its body. It has gigantic, glistening eyes.” In groups of 2-4, select a real aquatic animal. Learn about the real animal. Write a creative, imaginary description of the animal or draw a picture of the imaginary version. Add a few distorted, exaggerated, or supernatural characteristics to your animal. Then, write a mythic story about your creature. Share the story with the rest of your troop.

Reference: Mermaids and Manatees, *Aquatic Project WILD*, 1987:41-43.

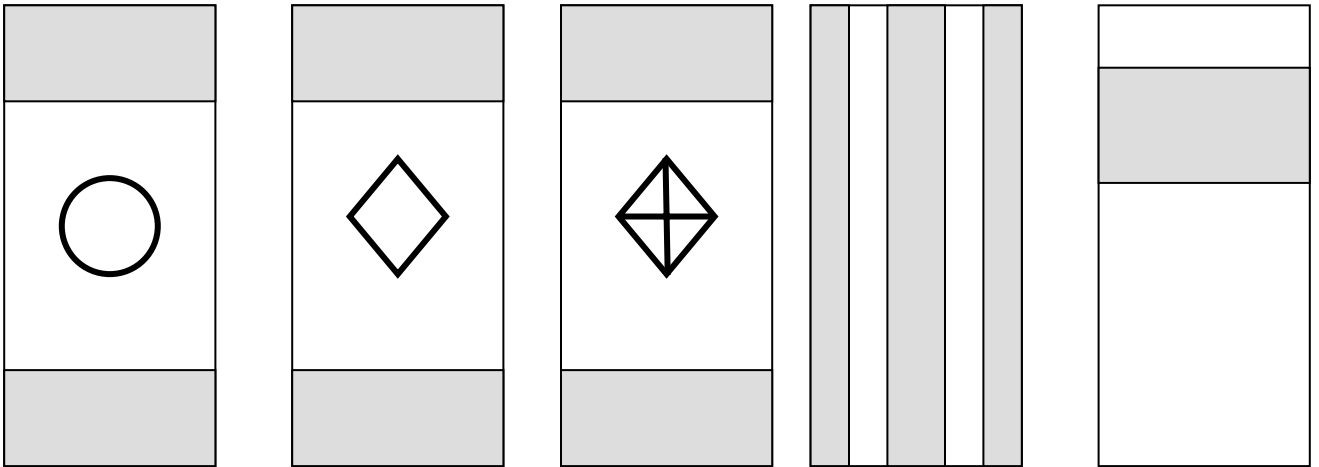
Note: for reference material, you may check out the Mermaids and Manatees activity materials.

Kerr Lake History Scavenger Hunt

Completion of this nature hunt will complete one of the badge requirements for the Camp Graham Junior Ranger badge. Have Fun!

1. What is the dominant coniferous tree around Kerr Lake?
2. Which Native American tribe inhabited the Roanoke River/Kerr Lake area before the arrival of Europeans?
3. How did they use the area?
4. Why was the Kerr Lake Project initiated? What was the primary reason?
5. What are the other uses for Kerr Lake?
6. How long did it take to complete the construction on the project?
7. How large is Kerr Lake?
8. What was the original name of the lake?
9. Who is it named for now?
10. Which states share Kerr Lake?
11. What counties share Kerr Lake?
12. Where is the dam located?
13. How high is Kerr Lake above sea level?
14. Who patrols Kerr Lake?
15. What is the one venomous snake found in Kerr Lake Recreation Area?
16. Who oversees fishing and hunting on and around Kerr Lake?
17. Who administers the 7 state recreation areas in NC around Kerr Lake?

Identify these Kerr Lake buoys:



18. Find the approximate location of Camp Graham on a North Carolina Map.

Kerr Lake History Scavenger Hunt – Answer Sheet

Completion of this nature hunt will complete one of the badge requirements for the Camp Graham Junior Ranger badge. Have Fun!

1. What is the dominant coniferous tree around Kerr Lake? Loblolly Pine
2. Which Native American tribe inhabited the Roanoke River/Kerr Lake area before the arrival of Europeans? Occoneechee
3. How did they use the area? To control trade between tribes throughout the Roanoke River Basin
4. Why was the Kerr Lake Project initiated? What was the primary reason? To combat recurrent flooding problems
5. What are the other uses for Kerr Lake?
Electricity, Recreation, Fish and Wildlife conservation, Forest Management, Water Supply
6. How long did it take to complete the construction on the project? 1947 - 1953
7. How large is Kerr Lake?
~50,000 acres
~800 miles of shoreline
~39 miles up the Roanoke River
8. What was the original name of the lake? Buggs Island Lake
9. Who is it named for now? NC Congressman John H Kerr
10. Which states share Kerr Lake? NC and VA
11. What counties share Kerr Lake?
Mecklenburg, Charlotte, Halifax, in VA, and Vance, Warren, Granville, in NC
12. Where is the dam located?
179 river miles above the mouth of the Roanoke River
in Mecklenburg County, VA
30 river miles downstream from Charlottesville, VA
13. How high is Kerr Lake above sea level? 300 feet
14. Who patrols Kerr Lake? U.S. Army Corps of Engineer Rangers, State Fish and Game Wardens
15. What is the one venomous snack found in Kerr Lake Recreation Area? Copperhead
16. Who oversees fishing and hunting on and around Kerr Lake? U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and NC and VA Fish and Game Agencies
17. Who administers the 7 state recreation areas in NC around Kerr Lake? NC Division of Parks and Recreation

