

Re: Solar guidelines in Boy Scout Astronomy merit badge

Source: <http://sci.tech-archive.net/Archive/sci.astro.amateur/2005-11/msg01906.html>

- *From:* Chris L Peterson <clp@xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Tue, 29 Nov 2005 16:56:40 GMT
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On Mon, 28 Nov 2005 21:26:05 -0500, Glenn Holliday <holliday@xxxxxxx> wrote:

>I'm talking with a local Boy Scout leader about counselling
>the Astronomy merit badge. Reading their book on the topic,
>I was surprised to find that the Scouts teach not to use a
>telescope for solar observing, because filters aren't safe
>and you can't eliminate the risk of accidentally seeing
>the sun naked eye.
>
>I know some of you have worked with Boy Scout troops.
>I see there is a process for suggesting corrections
>to the merit badge book. Has anybody already discussed
>this issue with the national organization? Already had
>a ruling on a proposal to teach safe solar viewing?

Realistically, solar observing *_is_* risky. Even with proper equipment, the slightest error in procedure can be very dangerous. Solar observing is probably not something that should be done without responsible adults present. Of course, there is no reason that Boy Scouts couldn't be introduced to solar observing, but my guess is that the BSA would be reluctant for liability reasons to include much in the way of solar viewing in the Astronomy merit badge requirements.

If you are interested in effecting a change, I'd suggest limiting solar observing to indirect methods only— pinhole or other projection systems.

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- *Follow-Ups:*

Re: Solar guidelines in Boy Scout Astronomy merit badge

- ◆ **Re: Solar guidelines in Boy Scout Astronomy merit badge**
◇ From: Glenn Holliday
- ◆ **Re: Solar guidelines in Boy Scout Astronomy merit badge**
◇ From: David G. Nagel

• **References:**

- ◆ **Solar guidelines in Boy Scout Astronomy merit badge**
◇ From: Glenn Holliday
- Prev by Date: **Re: If you believe any of your theories, you've turned science into a religion.**
- Next by Date: **Re: zhummel dobs**
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