

Meteors and Meteor Showers

suggested activities



Have you ever stretched out on the grass in your yard and watched a meteor shower? Did you wonder what causes them or look for any meteorites afterwards? Complete these requirements for a cool pin and learn about meteors and meteor showers. Have you had your meteor shower today?

- _____ 1. Show your leader that you can find the following constellations:
 - a) Ursa Major and Ursa Minor
 - b) One of the following:
 - Leo the Lion, if you are observing in the spring,
 - Corona Borealis, the Northern Crown, if you are observing in the summer,
 - Lyra, the Harp, if you are observing during the fall,
 - Orion, the Hunter, if you are observing during the winter.
- _____ 2. Explain to a fellow Girl Scout what causes meteor showers and how they are named.
- _____ 3. Watch a meteor shower, keeping count of the meteors you see in an observation log. Write the name of the comet which created the debris trail that becomes a meteor shower we see on Earth.
- _____ 4. Hunt for and collect micrometeorites and observe them using a magnifying glass. Do they have any interesting properties? Record your findings.
- _____ 5. Complete a research project with your troop. After your troop has researched ONE of the following, prepare a presentation with visual aids, perhaps with PowerPoint, to share with other participating Girl Scouts troops. Research topics include, but are not limited to the following:
 - Myths or folklore about meteor showers, from a particular country or culture. (Perhaps you could use your project for your Thinking Day display...)
 - Exciting meteor showers in the past,
 - Meteor showers in the arts – literature, paintings, movies...