

Soil and Water Conservation Merit Badge –Additional Website Info

It is NRCS Once you have pulled that up then you can link to the state and county. An easy way to get soils is to type in the name county name and follow in with the words Soil survey (Olmsted Co Soil Survey should get one there) the same can be said for any of the adjoining or nearby counties. Not all of them can you get the soil maps of an area of interest and would suggest that a person goes to the FSA USDA office and stop in at the NRCS part and ask for a map. There is a new technology called "lidar", which I will have a copy of at the ranch, but if the boys mention what it is that they are doing, I sure that there is someone there willing to assist and make a copy of a soil map for you and I would also asked for a Lidar map showing topography of that area also. The area of interest should be less than 200 acres.

One additional thought regarding "watersheds" and it is from a Environmental Protection Agency(EPA) web site. The part I would be interested in seeing the scouts doing is below. There is much about watersheds there, which would be too technical for them to view, but this one explains it very well and does not take a great deal of time.

4. This area can be best addressed on the Web as the EPA has what is referred to as a Watershed Academy. Simply type that term in on a google type search. Although much of it is intended for adult activity, I think that there is one part that the younger people could do. It is going to the Watershed Ecology modules and go directly to the "stream corridor" part. It goes to 15 separate sections that neatly describes the elements of a watershed. They need to pay attention because there is a test at the end. According to it, they need to score 70 % or better, but I am not going to hold them to it as much as they would need to complete that part. It can easily be done on their own home computer. River basin is any major river system and I am not to concerned about that item.