

New Outdoor Patron Saint Badges

These patches are designed for youth ages 5 to 15 who are participants in Behold Christ Catholic Clubs, i.e., Little Flowers Girls' Clubs, Blue Knights Boys' Club, Little Women Hospitality Clubs and Our Lady's Honor Guard. Although each of these clubs have their own specific award system in place, these badges are designed to widen the experience of the participants within a Catholic context. So, if one is working on pets, the patron saint associated with learning how to care for pets is St. Francis of Assisi. In this way, the youth learn to see the world around them in a Catholic context. This Catholic context is so very important to help us integrate our Catholic faith with every aspect of our lives. In this secular world, we tend to compartmentalize our daily lives into specific areas: work, play, prayer, etc. A Catholic world view means that each area of life is seen through a Catholic lens. God and faith are present everywhere. Sometimes, we just don't see it or realize it. The goal of these badges is to help youth practice seeing the world through Catholic eyes.

Each badge has five to six fairly simple tasks associated with it. The first item on the list is to learn about the saint and their connection with the subject of which they are patron. This first item is mandatory in earning the badge. Younger participants can then choose two more, so that three of the six items are required to earn the badge. Older children can do four to six of the items to complete the badge. Of course, as with all the Behold Christ Clubs badges, the requirements are flexible and up to each individual parent or leader. The suggestions here are guidelines, rather than hard and fast rules on what must be done to earn the badge. Parents and leaders are also welcome to add other requirements they feel may be more effective in teaching the youth always in the context of a Catholic world view.

For more in-depth study in specific areas, check out Behold Publications major badges ranging from our Outdoors Adventures Badge, American Catholic History Badge, Family Evangelization Badge, Mother/Daughter Tea Badge and more. These major badges are designed for more prolonged study to be earned as a group over a period of time, whereas the Patron Saint Badges are easily earned in one or two sessions or within the family structure. It might be helpful for the club members to keep track of their work in a notebook, since many of the requirements require learning something and reporting on it. Younger children can fill the notebook with pictures, drawings, and stickers to reinforce the lesson. Resources for the requirements are vast and varied. Saint biographies can be readily found on the internet or in saint biographical compendiums. We recommend NewAdvent.org for saint biographies, but many good sites are available.

GEOLOGY - St. Barbara of Nicomedia

Symbol: Pick Ax and Shovel

- 1) Find out about this saint and why she was chosen as our saint. Give a report to your parent or leader—either verbal or written—of what you have learned.
- 2) There are differences between geology, petrology, and mineralogy. Find out what they are and create a chart to explain this to your family or group. Which is your favorite and why?
- 3) Did you know 23 gemstones are listed in the Bible? Find and list each one. Which one is your favorite? Create a memory verse card or small poster from one of the verses mentioning a gem.
- 4) There are also gemstones for each month, referred to as *birthstones*. Make a list of the birthstones for each of your family members including grandparents. Create a card or send a note to them about your new knowledge and say a prayer for their intentions and concerns.
- 5) Go on a treasure hunt for beautiful rocks in your backyard or local park. Head over the USGS (United States Geology Survey) or similar site and see if you can determine what you found.

- 6) The United States Army Field Artillery Association and the United States Army Air Defense Artillery Association both have a badge in St. Barbara's honor. Discover what this entails and give a report to your family or group—either verbal or written—about what you find.

Signature of Leader or Parent

Date Completed

ASTRONOMY - St. Dominic

Symbol: Stars

- 1) Find out about this saint and this area of study. Give a report to your parent or leader—either verbal or written—of what you have learned.
- 2) Almost three dozen Catholic scientist/priests are honored and remembered on the Moon. How was this done? Find out at least three of these scientists' names and their histories. Share what you learn with your family/group.
- 3) There are hundreds of verses in the Bible about both stars and the moon. Find one or two you like and use it to illustrate a blank calendar page. Use this page to make a moon chart for a month. Take a blank calendar page and keep track of how the moon waxes and wanes (what do those terms mean?). Reflect and pray about how God is watching over us each day just as the moon watches us.
- 4) Plan on a nighttime hike with your family. What constellations can be seen over your home/town? Find out what *light pollution* is and how might you be able to see more stars?
- 5) Plan on a visit to a local observatory or go on a virtual visit to the Vatican Observatory. Explore its site from the beautiful images to its in-depth discussions of faith and science. Give either a verbal or written report of its long and amazing history.

Signature of Leader or Parent

Date Completed

METEOROLOGY - St. Medard

Symbol: Shooting Star

- 1) Find out about this saint and this area of study. Why have they been put together? Give a report to your parent or leader—either verbal or written—of what you have learned.
- 2) Predicting the weather can be a tricky thing and meteorologists can get it wrong. Get a blank calendar page and keep track of what your local weatherperson (website or app) predicts versus what you actually seen. How accurate where they?
- 3) Meteorology affects our lives and many businesses every day. Make a list of those meteorological events that have devastating affects on people's lives. Find the prayer against bad weather (there are many) and commit to praying it for a week.
- 4) There are several Biblical stories about storms to be found. Find your favorite and do a simple illustration of it or share it verbally with your family/group. Talk about God's protection over us despite the weather.
- 5) While St. Medard is the patron against bad weather, there is great story about twin saints, St. Scholastica and St. Benedict. Find it and share it with your family friends. Remember them when bad weather threatens you or your family's plans.

Signature of Leader or Parent

Date Completed

ORNITHOLOGY - St. Milburga

Symbol: Bird

- 1) Find out about this saint and why she was chosen as our saint. Give a report to your parent or leader—either verbal or written—of what you have learned.
- 2) What is ornithology? Re-read the story of creation and find out when birds arrived. Ask your family members what is their favorite bird and make a chart/picture of these.
- 3) Birds are not only beautiful but they have a vital role in keeping ecosystems working. Read a book or go online and find out why birds matter. Share what you learn with your family/group.
- 4) Make a bird feeder for your home. Make a list of what types of birds come and visit.
- 5) The Bible gives us several images of birds as a reminder of how God loves and cares for us. Find two of them and illustrate them. Share with your family/group your favorite bird from the Bible.
- 6) Plan a bird-watching hike or visit to a local zoo to see what birds are there. Talk to your family about how you might be able to help increase the bird population in your area or the world.

Signature of Leader or Parent

Date Completed

ENTOMOLOGY - St. Felix of Nola

Symbol: Bugs

- 1) Find out about this saint and this area of study. Why are they put together? Give a report to your parent or leader—either verbal or written—of what you have learned.
- 2) What is entomology? How many insects are there? Share what you learn with your family/group.
- 3) One of our saint's miracles occurred because of a spider, which is an arachnid and not an insect. Find out the difference and share it with your family/group.
- 4) St. Felix's miracle is similar to a folk story about a Christmas miracle and including a spider web as a part of Christmas decorations occurs in several cultures. Find the story and read it with your family.
- 5) Find out why insects are vital to our environment. Plan on an insect hunt (choose either daytime or nighttime) with your family packing magnifying glasses and jar for a closer (and temporary) look to see what insects live near you.

Signature of Leader or Parent

Date Completed

FLORICULTURE - St. Therese of Lisieux

Symbol: Flowers

- 1) Find out about this saint and this study and why they were chosen together. Give a report to your parent or leader—either verbal or written—of what you have learned.
- 2) Flowers have a long history of meaning in the world. Find out the favorite flowers of your family members and see what they might ‘mean.’ Share what you learn with an illustrated card for each of them.
- 3) Our Blessed Mother has been given several titles which mention flowers. Find out what those titles are and what those flowers look like. St. Benedict had his own list for Mary; be sure to include these flowers to your list.
- 4) Making a Mary Garden is a long tradition in our Church. What flowers were included? Talk to your family to see if you could create one for your home. If that is not possible, draw one to have it virtually.
- 5) Flowers brighten everyone’s life. Talk to your parents about how you could help an elderly neighbor or family member with their garden. If this is not possible, create a bouquet of flowers (either real or paper) to deliver them as a corporal work of mercy. Include a card telling them of your prayers for their intentions.

Signature of Leader or Parent

Date Completed

FORESTRY – St. Giovanni Gualberto

Symbol: Tree

- 1) Find out about this saint and this study why they were chosen together. Give a report to your parent or leader—either verbal or written—of what you have learned.
- 2) Our saint is not well-known but is the patron of several areas related to forests. Make a list of what his areas of patronage are and share it. Talk to your parents/leader about how being outside helps us realize God’s majesty and generosity to us.
- 3) What parks are located near you? Make a map of your town, county or even state and mark all the parks. Talk to your parents about how you could visit them (maybe every one of them).
- 4) Another saint, St. Hubert, has a powerful story about forests and forest animals. Find his story and read it with your family/group. Make an illustration of his miracle to hang in your room.
- 5) What trees are local to your home? Increasing the number of trees in the world helps our environment as a whole—both people and animals. Contact your local forestry service or go online to see how you might be able to plant additional trees on your property or locally. Ask St. Gualberto to watch over them as they grow.

Signature of Leader or Parent

Date Completed