Boys Scouts

Archaeology Merit Badge, Requirement 7a

Requirement 7a of the Archaeology Merit Badge is to “[m]ake a list of items you would include in a time capsule. Discuss with your merit badge counselor what archaeologists a thousand years from now might learn about you and the culture in which you live based on the contents of your capsule.”

Go to Pittsburgh: A Tradition of Innovation, located on the 2nd floor, and find the 1939 New York’s World Fair section. The Westinghouse Electric Company, based in Pittsburgh, created a time capsule that is supposed to be opened 5000 years later, in 6939. It contains a wide variety of things, including slide rules, microfilm of books, instructions for building a motion picture machine, and a baseball. Read the time capsule section of the Westinghouse World Fair newsletter and look at the replica time capsule for more information.

Westinghouse also published The Story of the Westinghouse Time Capsule in 1939, which can be found online at https://archive.org/details/storyofwestingho00pendrich, and contains a thorough history of the time capsule, a complete listing of contents, and instructions for how humans are supposed to interact with it in the future.

After seeing what the 1939 Westinghouse time capsule contained, what would you include in a time capsule? Make your list in the space below.

- 
- 
- 

What do you think Westinghouse Electric and the team of archaeologists and historians who selected the contents wanted people 5000 years in the future to know about life in 1939?

What do you think that archaeologists in 1000 years could learn about you and life now based on your time capsule?