



Age levels:

B J C S A

SEEMORE'S WILDLIFE EVENT PATCH

Girl Scouts of Middle Tennessee

Requirements: Use the following program module to execute a Seemore's Wildlife Event for your Service Unit.

SEEMORE'S WILDLIFE EVENT PROGRAM MODULE

This event works well in a wide game format with an introductory general session and smaller wide game sessions or stations following. The recommended size for this program is not more than 60. If you have more, than add duplicate wide game sessions to keep the numbers small within the groups. That's the key to a successful day!

Girl Scout Brownie Level: This event can be accomplished in about six hours, making this a nice all-day activity. If girls bring their own lunch and drinks, the cost of this program can be kept to a minimum. Brownies will fulfill requirements for the Seemore's Wildlife Patch and the Eco-Explorer and Outdoor Adventurer Try-Its.

Junior Level: This event will require a weekend. Plan this activity for an overnight camping trip or Camporee. Juniors will fulfill all requirements for the Seemore's Wildlife Patch and the Wildlife Badge.

Cadette, Senior, Ambassador and Adult Girl Scouts: may earn this patch by helping with the planning and carrying out of a Seemore's Wildlife Event. Girls may use this toward Leadership or Challenge awards for either the Silver or Gold Award.

Brownie Girl Scout Level – This is a Girl Scout wide game: Divide girls into groups, one group at each station, and then rotate so that each group of girls has a turn at each station.

A. **Ecology Hunt and Rubbings** – Teach girls what poison ivy looks like as this station begins.

1. Discuss "leave no trace" hiking. Then send the girls on a scavenger hunt. Provide the girls with a checklist of things to find. Personalize it to your area so the girls are sure to find quite a few items. See suggested items on page 102 of the Brownie Try-It Book, "Eco-Explorer Try-It". See also the Leave No Trace website under Resources.
2. On their hunt, have them collect a few items of interesting shape and texture and let them collect a few items of interesting shape and texture and let them make rubbings. Define what "a few" means or each girl can bring back one item and everyone can make a rubbing of each other's item.
3. Discuss what a habitat is and how it all interrelates (page 99 in *Brownie Girl Scout Handbook*).

B. Trail Signs & Snack

1. Let the girls put together gorp (trail mix) for their hike. Have a variety of items available. Girls determine why each item is important to them on the trail—salt on peanuts for water retention, sugar for quick energy, carbohydrates, protein, etc. (page 109 in *Brownie Girl Scout Handbook*).
2. Show examples of trail signs (*Outdoor Education in Girl Scouting*)
3. Let girls practice making their own trail signs.
4. Divide into two groups. Have each group lay a short trail for the other group, and then follow it. Eat gorp while on the trail.

C. Touch, Smell, Listen – Girls can learn about the outside world using all their senses.

1. Find an area where the girls can spread out and either lie down or sit. Have them close their eyes and spend about 10 minutes “listening”. Talk about what they heard. Could they identify things by their sound?
2. Repeat the above exercise having the girls use their sense of smell. Could they identify things by their smell? Blindfold the girls (or have them close their eyes, Girl Scouts honor-no peeking!) and pass items under their noses for them to guess by smell. Don’t let them touch the items. Try a flower, fresh pine needles, a pinecone, a crumbled leaf, and a broken green stick. How many could they guess?
3. Repeat the above exercise again having different items for girls to “touch” with their eyes closed. Try putting each item in a separate bag to make “feely bags”. Could they identify things by how they felt?

D. General Presentation – all girls can be involved if this helps facilitator.

1. Have animals available for the girls to see, touch and smell. Recruit a pet storeowner to bring samples of domestic animals (guinea pig, rabbit, kitten, fish, parrot, etc.). Discuss domestic animals and their care and how they differ from wild animals. You may prefer to contact Discovery Center at Murfree Spring, Owl’s Hill Nature Center or Nashville Zoo at Grassmere (see recommended resources). Or, if you hold your event at a local nature center, you may be able to take advantage of animals already on site.

Junior Scout Level: – This is meant to be a fairly easy weekend. Simple meals should be planned so you don’t spend all of your time cooking and cleaning. To get the full value of the weekend, plan to stay in a tent unit.

A. First Night

1. Invite the site manager (or park ranger or naturalist) in to discuss the management of wildlife in the area. Also, have him or her discuss poisonous plants and wildlife on site (show examples if possible).
2. Find out which bird, tree and flower have been chosen to represent your state and why they were chosen. See if your state has any other wildlife symbols, such as state insect or state fish.

Symbol	Tennessee
Flower	Iris
Bird	Mockingbird
Insect	Ladybug & Firefly
Tree	Tulip Poplar
Fish	Largemouth Bass
Wild Animal	Raccoon
Butterfly	Zebra Swallowtail
Horse	TN Walking Horse
Amphibian	TN Cave Salamandre
Reptile	Box Turtle
Fossil	

3. Play a nature game (see Recommended Resources).

B. First Morning

1. Have animals available for the girls to see and possibly touch. Learn about their behaviors, habitats and field marks. You may want to contact Discovery Center at Murfree Spring, Owl's Hill Nature Center or Nashville Zoo at Grassmere (see recommended resources).
2. Talk with an employee from any of the organizations listed above or a Park Ranger/Naturalist about careers relating to wildlife.
3. Participate in a project that improves or establishes wildlife habitat in your community. Some examples are: making birdhouses or bat houses, planting trees and flowers, repairing areas damaged by erosion. (Check with park rangers or site manager well in advance for suggestions to improve the site of the event.)

C. Afternoon

1. "Dream a Stream" – All girls sit in a circle, close their eyes and imagine themselves at a stream. What does it look like? Sound like? Roll out a long sheet of paper and have each girl illustrate her stream on a section of it, forming one lone stream.
2. Visit a stream where you can observe how wildlife interacts with its environment and other creatures. How many different forms of wildlife can you find? What plants or trees are near the stream? How are they needed? What about rocks? Are there plants growing on rocks? Animals clinging to rocks? What food chains can you observe?
3. Play the food chain game: Spread popped popcorn in a large open space. Divide girls into three groups: grasshoppers, frogs and eagles. You should have two eagles, 4-6 frogs and 10 or more grasshoppers. Grasshoppers carry plastic bags and gather the popcorn (their food). After a few minutes, the frogs run out and try to catch the grasshoppers (their food). After a few minutes more, send out the two eagles to catch the frogs (their food). Game is over when the food chain is exhausted. Identify players by doing something like putting hats on the grasshoppers; bandanas on the frogs and eagles carry balloons.

D. Evening

1. Find out about endangered plants and animals in your state. Why are they endangered? What is being done to protect them? What organizations help protect endangered species in your area?
2. Complete the project that improves or establishes wildlife habitat that was begun in the morning (if needed).
3. Have a campfire with a WILDLIFE theme. For example: Information about endangered plants and animals could be told as stories around the campfire; skits could enact legends about animals, etc.

E. Second Morning

1. Wake up early in the morning when light begins to dawn to do the following bird watching activities:
 - a. Listen very quietly to the symphony of sounds around you and try to interpret the repeating sounds. Example: a quail's whistle can be interpreted as "bob white". Make a list of some of the different sounds you hear.
 - b. Watch for the location of the birds. How many different birds do you see in the:
 - Canopy?
 - Understory?
 - On the ground?
 - c. What are some activities you might expect a bird to do during the day?
 - d. What are some kinds of food birds might find in your area?
 - e. Select five different birds to watch carefully. Make an identification list on each bird:
 - Name of bird
 - Color
 - Size
 - Beak size and shape
 - f. How are these birds alike? How are they different?

RESOURCES

PUBLICATIONS

Handbooks for Brownie and Junior Girl Scouts are your primary resources. In addition use:

Exploring Wildlife Communities with Children by Carolyn L. Kennedy, GSUSA

Outdoor Education in Girl Scouting, GSUSA

Ranger Rick's NatureScope: (activity books on different topics available for check-out in Resource Library)

Sharing Nature with Children by Joseph Cornell

Sharing the Joy of Nature by Joseph Cornell

Sycamore Hills Outdoor Education Center Teacher Curriculum Guide, GSCCV

Take a New Bearing by Phyllis M. Ford (American Camping Association)

These publications are available at the Girl Scout Center in the Shop for purchase and/or in the Resource Library for checkout. The Resource Library also has a number of field guidebooks for plant and animal identification. Also check with the public library nearest you. There are other good books on these topics.

ORGANIZATIONS

Adventure Science Center

800 Fort Negley Blvd.

Nashville, TN 37203

(615) 862-5160

info@adventuresci.com

C.E.N.T.S. (Conservation Education Now for Tennessee Students)

For more info go to:

<http://www.tennessee.gov/education/projectcents/>

or contact: Department of Education

Andrew Jackson Tower

6th Floor

Nashville, TN 37243-0375

(615) 741-2731

Discovery Center at Murfree Spring

502 Southeast Broad St.

Murfreesboro, TN 37130

(615) 890-2300

<http://discoverycenteronline.org/>

Ellington Agricultural Center

Videos produced by them are available in the Resource Library (Girl Scout Center). Information and education programs.

440 Hogan Rd.

Nashville, TN 37220

(615) 837-5197

Endangered Species

For a list and information about endangered species go to:

<http://www.worldwildlife.org/endangered/>

or

<http://endangered.fws.gov/>

or contact:

Chief, Division of Endangered Species

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Eastside Federal Complex

911 N.E. 11th Ave.

Portland, OR 97232-4181

Leave No Trace

<http://www.lnt.org/>

Nashville Zoo at Grassmere

3777 Nolensville Road

Nashville, TN 37211

(615) 833-1534

www.nashvillezoo.org

Owl's Hill Nature Center

545 Beech Creek Road

Brentwood, TN 37027

(615) 370-4672

www.owlshill.org

Parks

Don't forget our state and city parks. Events scheduled at these sites will be able to use the nature centers, trails and naturalists/rangers as resources. Ask! You will find a lot of support.

Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency

Ellington Agricultural Center

P.O. Box 41489

Nashville, TN 37204

1-800-624-7406

<http://www.state.tn.us/twra/>