

## **JUNIOR: Flowers**

Hey Girl Scout! Do you ever go outside during the spring and summer just to look at all of the beautiful colors of the flowers? With this badge you can discover that there's more to flowers than just good looks. Look at petals and find out the benefits of flowers. When you've earned this badge, you'll know all that's wonderful about flowers.

### **Step 1: Uncover the science of one flower.**

1. A scientist who studies plants is called a botanist. They track the history of the different kinds of plants. Now it is time for you to become a botanist. Pick a flower and then figure out when, how, and where the flower was first discovered or first bred. Learn about when it blooms and what it looks like. Keep notes in your botanist notebook.
2. Now you are going on a flower hunt. Find your flower and find others that you can name. Don't pick them, but use a magnifying glass to take a good look. Sketch or record what you see in your botanist notebook.

Supplies:

1. Computer
2. Pencil
3. Magnifying glass
4. Small notebook

### **Step 2: Look under the petals.**

1. Flowers look like they are just sitting there but in fact they are always very busy. Now it is time to delve deeper into what they can do.
2. We are going to see how a flower's root system works. Find some white flowers and cut the stems. Then place the flowers in water that contains your favorite color of food dye or food coloring. Soon you should start to see the flower become your favorite color. Keep track of the results in your notebook.
3. Try using different colors and flowers and see what happens.

Supplies:

1. Notebook
2. Pencil
3. Cup
4. Food coloring/food dye
5. Flowers

### **Step 3: Find out how flowers help people.**

1. Not only do flowers have a lot going on on the inside they have a lot of benefits for people. It's time to learn how they can be helpful. Don't forget to keep detailed notes and drawings in your notebook.
2. Flowers are fruits in disguise. Don't blow their cover, but a flower will eventually become a fruit. Find a flower that turns into a fruit and make a snack for your family using that fruit. Tell them about the fruit it came from.
3. Flowers are also healers. Scientists who study how plants can help humans are called ethnobotanists. They are constantly on the lookout for new flowers that

could be made into medicines to help with common sickness. Find out about three different medicinal flowers or herbs and how they can help.

Supplies:

1. Notebook
2. Pencil
3. Computer
4. Fruit

**Step 4: Have fun with flowers.**

1. Now that we know what flowers can do, create something beautiful with them. Find flowers in your yard or a neighbor's yard. (Don't forget to ask for permission before you pick)
2. We are going to have fun with dried flowers. Make a pressed-flower bookmark by flattening a flower inside a heavy book. then place it between two sheets of wax paper. Have an adult help you iron the waxed paper, then cut around the flower to make the book mark the right size.
3. If you do not have access to flowers you can make flower look-alikes. Make a flower "imposter" bouquet. Try a poinsettia made out of paper plate, poppies made of tissue paper, and tulips made of eggshells. Just be creative and use your imagination.

Supplies:

1. Notebook
2. Pencil
3. Flowers
4. Wax paper

**Step 5: Send a message in flower code.**

1. Many flowers are symbols that send a specific message when you send them. In America a bouquet of roses represents love. Flowers have meaning in Girl Scouts. The Daisies have a garden full of Flower Friends who help them learn the Girl Scout Law. Send a flower message - it can be for a holiday, to show how you feel, or just because. Make it from fresh flowers or craft flowers.
2. You could make a bouquet, a corsage, or an arrangement. A bouquet is a bunch of flowers, sometimes kept together by a ribbon. A corsage is a brooch or bracelet made of real flowers, usually worn to a special event like a dance. An arrangement is a group of flowers placed in a container in a pretty way.

Don't forget to keep notes and sketches of all your botanist work!