

ALL ABOUT ARIZONA'S BIRDS

This patch will introduce Girl Scout Brownies to birds found in Arizona through fun and interesting activities.

PURPOSE

When I have earned this badge, I will know how to identify some common birds of Arizona and tell some of their characteristics.

STEPS

1. Bird Facts

- Attend a birding program where you can learn about birds' mating, nesting, feeding and life cycle characteristics.
- Using a bird identification book, look up ten birds found in Arizona. Then, choose two birds and learn more about where they live, what they eat, when they sleep and other facts interesting to you.
- Read a book about birds. Your librarian can help you select a good one. After you read the book, tell an adult or other Brownies what you learned.

2. Bird Observation

- Take care of a bird pet and observe its habits. Take responsibility for cleaning up after the bird and feeding it.
- Go on a bird walk in your neighborhood or another outdoor location. Identify at least five species of birds seen during the walk.
- Learn to use binoculars. Be able to properly adjust them. Then, use the binoculars to observe birds in your neighborhood, a park or other location.

3. Bird in Art

- Draw a picture of a bird using pencil, paints or crayons.
- Visit an art museum and find three pictures that contain a bird or birds. Tell an adult or other Brownies why you think that the artist included the bird or birds in each picture.
- Cut bird pictures from magazines and make a collage.



4. Bird Crafts

- Make a bird feeder and hang it where you can watch the visiting birds. Use one of the attached suggestions or design one of your own.
- Create a home for birds by making or purchasing a bird house. Set up the house in your yard, a field or your school yard. For free plans, visit www.craftybirds.com.
- Create a bird out of clay. Pay attention to the details of the body. Use real birds or pictures as your model.

5. Birding Skills

- Listen to bird calls and learn to identify at least five different bird songs. Tapes and CD's are available from the library or download bird songs from www.birds.cornell.edu/programs/AllAboutBirds/BirdGuide/
- Meet a person interested in birds through the Audubon Society or other sources. Find out why he/she likes to learn about birds and his/her tips for successful birding.
- Assist scientists by counting birds where you live. Participating in The Great Backyard Bird Count (www.birdsource.org/gbbc) is an excellent way for you to provide scientists with information about bird movements and habitats.

MORE TO EXPLORE

- » Visit a museum of natural history. They normally have extensive bird collections.
- » Go on additional bird walks offered by the Audubon Society or other groups.
- » Get more involved in continuing bird counts. Visit www.ebird.org

ADD THE BADGE TO YOUR JOURNEYS

Start a journal or notebook listing details of all the different bird species you observe in whatever states you might visit. Some girls have collected information on hundreds of different species.

Now that I've earned this badge, I can give service by:

- » Identifying bird species for troop members on other outings
- » Learning more about bird conservation and endangered bird species
- » Helping birds during nesting season by putting out pieces of yarn, string and thread for birds to use in their nests