

Habitat Detective Program

Welcome to Girl Scouts of Citrus Habitat Detective Patch Program.

What is a habitat? The natural home of an animal, plant, or other organism including space, shelter, food, and water.

Why is it important? For species to survive and thrive they must have access to an appropriate habitat.

Objective: Explore different habitats and create your own.

Goals:

1. Introduce and explore habitats.
2. Learn some adaptations animals have.
3. Create your own terrarium.

Patch: Upon completion of this program you can send an email to the GSC Council Shop at shop@citrus-gs.org to order and pay for your patch.

Total Time: 1.5 to 2 hours

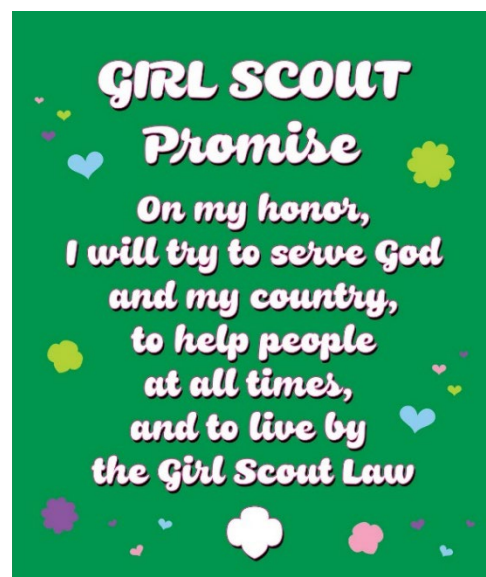
Grade levels: 2 - 7

Location/Space Needed: Outdoor area of any kind, preferably where animals frequent.

Supplies Needed:

- Binoculars or Magnifying glass (optional)
- Glass Jars w/ lid – one per girl
- Bag of potting soil
- Mini ferns – one per girl
- Bag of pebbles
- Bag of Activated Charcoal
- Masking Tape
- Sharpie

Before starting any Girl Scout activity, we always say The Pledge of Allegiance and the Girl Scout Promise.



Habitat Detective Program

Session Outline

Before the session begins:

- Review Safety Activity Checkpoints for any safety concerns.
- Set up supplies
- Walk through program area and look for anything that a girl/adult could potentially have an accident with or hurt themselves i.e. un-even ground, holes, stumps, poison ivy, bees, etc.



1. Introduction [5 - 10 minutes]: (if applicable)

- Adults Introduce themselves
- Give a brief overview of what the program entails.
- Cover basic rules (Respect, Buddies, bathroom location, etc.)
- Have the girls introduce themselves and name their favorite kind of habitat (forest, wetlands, ocean, desert, etc.)



2. Activities:

- **Discuss** [10 minutes]
 - What is a habitat?
 - The natural home of an animal, plant, or other organism including space, shelter, food, and water.
 - i.e.- forest, wetlands, desert, etc.
 - Why is it important?
 - For species to survive and thrive they must have access to an appropriate habitat.
 - What is an adaptation?
 - A special skill which helps an animal survive
 - i.e. – gills, camouflage, wings, prehensile tail, etc.



Habitat Detective Program

- **Explore** [40 minutes]
 - Take a walk around with binoculars and magnifying glasses to check out habitats high and low. Try to find a nest or a burrow, lift a rock or branch to see what's underneath!
 - If you find something cool, show the group and discuss what may live there and what adaptations they have to do so.
- **Create** [40 minutes]
 - Each girl will need to label her jar with masking tape and her name.
 - Layer approximately 1in of pebbles and ½in of charcoal then top with enough soil to fill about half the jar.
 - Remove your fern from its pot, carefully remove some of the excess soil and pull roots apart.
 - Create an indentation in the soil large enough to place your plant into, bury the roots, and pat down soil.
 - Water your plant, careful not to oversaturate.
 - Replace the top, you've now created a self-sustaining habitat for your fern!
 - In the event it became oversaturated, girls can leave the top off for a day or so before putting the top on.



3. **Closing** [10 minutes]:

- Have girls buddy up to talk about what they can do to make a difference while helping with below Kapers:
 - Clean off surfaces.
 - Sweep.
 - Put away supplies used.
 - Collect terrariums to take home.
- Friendship Circle

