



Brownie Bugs Badge

Pillar: STEAM/Outdoors

Purpose: When you've earned this badge, you'll know all about bugs!



Springtime is a great time to explore outside and look for bugs! There are lots of different kinds of animals that we call bugs. Check out this chart to get started:

<https://www.vox.com/science-and-health/2016/1/23/10815572/insects-species-home>

Brownies will follow these steps to earn their badge:

1. Draw a bug poster. (Discover/Connect)
 - a. What's your favorite bug? Are you interested in learning more about a specific butterfly or maybe the common cockroach? Do a little research on your bug of choice and then make a poster or infographic to share what you've learned.
 - b. Be sure to include some fun facts, like where your bug lives, what it eats, some information about its life cycle, and why you chose it.
 - c. Share your poster with your friends, family, or fellow Brownies.

2. Try a bug craft. (Discover/Connect)
 - a. Check out your family recycling bin or pantry and use your creativity to craft a bug. Take stock of the materials you have available, protect your workspace, and start making.
 - You might use a coffee filter and a clothespin to create a butterfly, an egg carton to make a caterpillar, pipe cleaners to make a fuzzy bee sitting on a tissue paper flower, or yarn to create a spider in its web.
 - Share your craft with friends or family – and encourage them to create their own bug.
 - b. Alternately, you could create a craft that HELPS bugs. Do some research on bug hotels, bug feeders, or container gardens that help bugs thrive. Work with your family, school, or religious house to find the perfect outdoor spot for your creation. (Take action)

3. See bugs in action. (Discover/Connect)
 - a. Head outdoors and find some bugs! How many can you find in half an hour? For each bug you find, try to determine:
 - The type of bug
 - What the bug eats
 - What it is doing and why.
 - b. With the help of an adult, take pictures of the bugs you discover or draw them in your nature journal. Don't have a nature journal? Start one! Any notebook will work or make your own. Here's an idea: <https://youtu.be/DIOwUC75Owg>



4. Explore bug homes. (Discover)
 - a. Bugs live in all kinds of interesting places. Brainstorm some types of bug homes with an adult or friend. Where do bees live? How are bee homes different from wasp homes? Where do spiders live? What about caterpillars transforming into butterflies? Do they live above ground or below ground or below ground? In a tree or on an animal?
 - b. Choose one kind of bug home to draw, or create a model from whatever materials you have available. Tell a friend or family member all about your creation and the bug that lives there.

5. Take a bug field trip. (Connect/Take Action)
 - a. Get out and see some bugs! Your field trip could be at a city park, a local farm, or a museum or zoo with a bug exhibit. Talk with an adult about where you could go in your area – or make it a day trip to somewhere new.
 - b. Visit our Girl Scout community partners page for a list of partners that can help with the Bugs Badge. Visit <https://www.gksmo.org/en/events/community-programs.html> and then Search by Petal, Badge, or Journey.
 - c. While on your field trip, record a few new facts you learned in your nature journal. Tell a friend or family member about the coolest – or most disgusting – fact you learned!

For an alternate take on any of these activities, check out a different version of the Bugs Badge in our Girl Scouts Virtual Archive. <https://www.gksmo.org/content/dam/girlscouts-gksmo/OtherDocuments/at-home/Brownie-Bugs.pdf>

When you're finished: Congratulations, you have earned your Brownie Bugs Badge! You can purchase online at <https://www.girlscoutshop.com/BROWNIE-BUGS-BADGE>.

Extend the fun!

Check out our Pollinator Project patch program! There are three parts to help you Discover, Connect, and Take Action on behalf of Pollinators!

Part 1 – Discover: <https://www.gksmo.org/content/dam/girlscouts-gksmo/OtherDocuments/at-home/Pollinator-Project-Week1.pdf>

Part 2 – Connect: <https://www.gksmo.org/content/dam/girlscouts-gksmo/OtherDocuments/at-home/Pollinator-Project-Week2.pdf>

Part 3 – Take Action: <https://www.gksmo.org/content/dam/girlscouts-gksmo/OtherDocuments/at-home/Pollinator-Project-Week3.pdf>

You can also purchase your Girl Scout Virtual main patch and bars at <https://www.girlscoutshop.com/GSKSMO-Virtual-AllPatch> or just the main patch / bar individually at <https://www.girlscoutshop.com/NE-KANSAS-and-NW-MISSOURI-COUNCIL>.

