



## Junior Animal Habitats

**Pillar:** Life Skills, Outdoor

When you've earned your Animal Habitat badge, you'll have learned more about animals and how to protect them.



A habitat is a place where animals can live and have all their needs met. You will find out more about where animals live, how they play, and how humans can help them.

### Juniors will follow these steps to earn their badge:

1. Find out about wild animals. (Discover)
  - a. Make a list of wild animals you can find in your neighborhood.
  - b. Check out the MO department of conservation and learn more about wildlife: <https://mdc.mo.gov/wildlife>
  
2. Investigate an animal habitat. (Discover, Connect)
  - a. Learn about types of animal habitats around the world (links below):
    1. <https://www.dkfindout.com/us/animals-and-nature/habitats-and-ecosystems/land-habitats/>
    2. <https://www.worldwildlife.org/habitats>
  - b. Make a list of animals and categorize them according to their habitats: forests, grasslands, deserts, mountains, and polar regions and aquatic. What types of animals can you find in each type of habitat? Discuss the
  - c. Go on a nature walk or look around your backyard. Investigate and see if you can find evidence of animals. Take a notebook and pencil with you. Write down all evidence of what you find. (I.e. Droppings, tracks, nests, sounds, etc.) or make a quick drawing of an animal near the habitat.
  - d. Visit a zoo or animal sanctuary. When there, choose a particular habitat, like a beach, jungle, or desert. With help from the staff answer these questions for each of five animals that live in that habitat.
    1. In what country is the animal naturally found?
    2. How does its fur or skin help the animal live in this habitat?
    3. How does it stay clean?
    4. How does it get around in this habitat?
    5. What kind of food can it find in this habitat?
  - e. The Kansas City Zoo posts videos on their Facebook page to keep us learning about animal habitats. Log onto Facebook with your parents and check out their page for daily new videos! The Kansas City Zoo also has live animal cams on their website! <https://www.kansascityzoo.org/animal-cams/>
  
3. Create an animal house. (Discover, Take action)
  - a. Follow this guide from GSUSA for building a small animal habitat: <https://www.girlscouts.org/en/girl-scouts-at-home/activities-for-girls/juniors/junior-animal-habitats-badge-activity.html>



- b. Gather materials from around your yard and make an animal habitat. You can share a photo of it with your troop.
  - c. Check out these types of animal houses you can build:
    - a. Bee Habitat: <https://www.naturalbeachliving.com/mason-bee-habitat/>
    - b. Bat habitat: <https://www.nwf.org/garden-for-wildlife/cover/build-a-bat-house>
    - c. Butterfly habitat: <https://www.annasflowers.ca/building-a-butterfly-habitat/#:~:text=Building%20a%20butterfly%20habitat%20is,the%20box%20to%20ensure%20airflow.>  
Monarch Watch: <https://www.monarchwatch.org/>
    - d. Bird Houses: <https://www.audubon.org/news/how-build-bluebird-nest-box>
4. Explore endangered habitats. (Discover, Connect)
- a. Learn about types of endangered animals and their habitats: <https://www.nationalgeographic.org/activity/threatened-animals-and-their-habitats/>
  - b. Check out this wonderful resource right in our Council—the KU Natural History museum. If you have some time, schedule a visit in person. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TIBGyVnnbeU&feature=youtu.be>
5. Help protect animal habitats. (Discover, Connect, Take Action)
- a. Create a skit or puppet show of the wild animals you learned about, and include what to do if you encounter them so that you, the animals and their homes stay safe.
  - b. Perform your skit or puppet show and record it! Share it with your network to help teach people how to keep themselves and animal habitats safe.
  - c. Learn “Leave no Trace” and share that with your family.
  - d. Host a wildlife awareness party. Choose an endangered animal. Learn as much as you can about that animal and share that with an audience.
  - e. Learn about ways you can be a part of the solution: <https://environmentalprofessionalsnetwork.com/10-easy-things-you-can-do-to-help-preserve-wildlife/>

**When you’re finished:** Congratulations, you have earned your badge! You can purchase at <https://www.girlscoutshop.com/JUNIOR-ANIMAL-HABITATS-BADGE>.

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>.

