

# National Wildlife Visitor Center Scout Program Links Index

The following pages identify rank and badge requirements and suggested approaches used to meet the requirements listed.

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## Overview of Program Links

The Scout Programs Links is designed as a tool for girl and boy scout leaders to use in helping their scouts complete requirements for each rank. The Patuxent Research Refuge (both North and South Tract) have a wide array of scouting opportunities to help scouts complete their requirements including a system of outdoor trails and a Visitor Center (on South Tract) with exhibits about Global Concerns, Bird Migration, Habitats of the U. S. and Endangered Species Information (including lifecycle dioramas and interpretive displays of various species of endangered/threatened species of animals). Trail maps are available at both locations and [www.patuxent.fws.gov](http://www.patuxent.fws.gov) link to **About the Refuge, Refuge Publications, Trail Maps.**

## Overview of Program Links (continued)

*Leaders, please note, that for some adventures or journeys, the refuge may not be able to meet all the requirements.*

### *Resource List*

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There is a wealth of information on the refuge's website [www.patuxent.fws.gov](http://www.patuxent.fws.gov) . Also, by visiting either North Tract or South Tract, before the scout field trip, leaders can obtain the following pamphlets to help them plan their outing.

Patuxent Research Refuge South Tract Trail Map National Wildlife Visitor Center

Patuxent Research Refuge North Tract Trails Map

Patuxent Research Refuge Overview (the Wood Duck pamphlet)

National Wildlife Visitor Center – The Wisdom of Wildness

Patuxent Research Refuge – Birds

Patuxent Research Refuge – Amphibians and Reptiles

Forest of Patuxent Discovery Hike Trail Guide (South Tract) – produced by Friends of Patuxent

### **Additional Resources**

Tiger Handbook 2015

Bear Handbook 2015

Wolf Handbook 2015

Webelos Handbook 2015

Boy Scout Handbook 2009

# Program Links Tiger Scouts

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## Tiger Core Adventures

**Backyard Jungle** – A Tiger can learn that all animals and bugs, big or small, have a place in our environment, and it is his duty to be careful of their habitats and that regardless of his age he can make a difference. Check out your backyard and see how many animals or bugs you can spot.

**At the Refuge:** Visit either North or South Tract trail systems with family or den and look at the number of different habitats on the refuge (including forest, meadows and wetlands). Please be careful not to disturb any of the habitats. Look for different kinds of animals and insects like squirrels, deer, dragonflies, butterflies, etc. Think of why these animals live in this type of habitat and how Tigers can help protect habitat of animals. See website and resource list for trail maps and other information

Some of the requirements, in this adventure, that would prepare them for a hike could include:

**Requirement 1:**

Sightings off bugs, animal or insect tracts, bird's nests, spider webs, animal chew on leaves and leaf litter.

**Requirement 2:** Using of binoculars to sight and identify two species of native birds (like a Baltimore oriole Or cardinal) With their adult leader's guidance, they could also learn about migration of birds and why birds Nest.

**Requirement 5.** Using their ears, the tigers can listen for and identify two types of animals by their sound (like birds chirping or squirrels rustling in the leaves).

**Tigers in the Wild:** A Tiger can learn many outdoor Scout skills when planning to go on a hike. A Tiger should know what to take along (like water on a hot day). In this adventure, a Tiger can start to notice signs of animal life like tracks or types of trees in a forest (like pines or oaks)

**At the Refuge:** For leaders, organize a visit to either the North or South Tract trail systems at the Patuxent Research Refuge for families or a den and look at the number of different habitats on the refuge (including forest, meadows and wetlands) Please be careful not to disturb any of the habitats. Look for different kinds of animals and insects like squirrels, deer, dragonflies, butterflies etc. Think of why these animals live in this type of habitat and how the Tigers can help protect these habitats.

See website and resource list for trail maps and other information

[www.patuxent.fws.gov](http://www.patuxent.fws.gov)

## Tigers in the Wild (Continued)

**Requirement 1:** The tigers will be able to name the 6 Cub Scouts essentials: filled water bottle, first aid kit, Flashlight, whistle, sun protection, and trail food and why these are essential for a trail hike

**Requirement 2:** The tigers will go on a trail hike with their leaders or family with a backpack (containing the six Cub Scout essentials). The tigers should know what to wear in different kinds of weather for hiking and While hiking walk and speak quietly (best way to see animals)

**Requirement 3:** The tigers will listen to their leader read the outdoor code and talk about how they can be Keep the environment clean and healthy. The tigers should also know about Leave No Trace (trash your trash) and talk about why Leave No Trace is important to animals and habitat.

**Requirement 4:** The tigers, while on the hike, will find 3 different kinds of plants, animals or signs that animals have been on or near trail. The tigers should list what they saw in their Tiger Handbook

**Requirement 6:** The tigers, while on the hike, will find two different trees (like oaks or pines) and two different types of plants that grown on the refuge (milkweed, greenbrier). They will then record their observations and draw a picture of the plants and trees they observed (with a sketch) in their handbooks or journals.

## *Program Links Wolf Scouts*

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### **Wolf Core Adventures**

**Paws on the Path:** A Wolf scout can learn how to go on an adventure with his family or den. He can develop hiking skills including being safe while hiking, be prepared for the weather, having water with him while hiking and observing nature using quiet voices and leaving no trace. The wolf scout should be introduced to the Outdoor Code before hiking

**At the Refuge:** There are 5 miles of hiking trails at the South Tract and 20 miles of hiking and biking trails at the North Tract. The Wolf leader and his den can go on an adventure (on any combination of trails) observing nature and wildlife. The Wolf scout can learn about being prepared, leaving no trace and practicing the rules of the Outdoor Code. The Wolf scouts can learn about hardwood forest, meadows and wetlands and different types of plants and animals. This also gives Wolf scouts the opportunity to practice the Outdoor Code and Leave No Trace. See website and resource list for trail maps and other information

## **Wolf Core Adventures Paws on the Path (continued)**

**Requirement 1:** The wolves will be able to tell their leader how to prepare for a hike including naming the Cub Scout Six Essentials to take along on the hike.

**Requirement 2:** The wolves will be able to tell their leader what a “buddy system” is and why it is important to use the buddy system when hiking, swimming or camping.

**Requirement 3:** The wolves will be able to describe to their leader what they should do if they get separated from the group while hiking using the STOP procedure (that is in the Wolf handbook).

**Requirement 4:** The wolves will be able to describe which clothing is appropriate) in different kinds of weather) for their hike.

**Requirement 5:** The wolves will be able to recite to their leader the Outdoor Code and Leave No Trace Principles for Kids and discuss with their pack or den how they showed respect for wildlife while on their hike.

**Requirement 6:** The wolves will be able, with their leader, pack/den or family, go on a 1 mile hike and record at least two interesting things that they have never seen before

**Requirement 7:** The wolves will be able to name at least two birds, two insects or two other animals that live in their area (weather dependent) and explain how they identified each species.

## Program Links Bear Scouts

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### Bear Core Adventures

**Bear Necessities:** The Bear Scouts need to know how to take care of themselves in the outdoors. As Tigers and Wolves, the scouts have learned about hiking and preparing for the outdoors. As a Bear Scout, the boys will increase and improve their outdoor skills

**At the Refuge:** For the leaders, there are 20 miles of trails on North Tract. The Bear Scouts can increase their knowledge about the outdoors by going on a one or two mile hike on either North or South Tract.

**Leaders Note:** North Tract has overnight camping opportunities. Please contact North Tract at 301-497-5701 for more information about overnight camping (South Tract has 5 miles of trails that are open from sunrise to sunset) See website and resource list for trail maps and other information

**Requirements 1 and 3:** The bears will be able to go on an outdoor overnight camping experience or go on a day long hike with their leaders and den/pack. The bears should be able to present to their leaders a list of items that they should have on a campout (including the Cub Scout Six Essentials) The scout will be able to tell their leaders what type of clothing is needed for different types of outdoor weather.

**Requirement 4:** The bears should be able to make a list of equipment the den or pack will need in addition to each one's personal gear. Items to be included (besides the Cub Scout Six Essentials) are camp lanterns, compasses, thermometers etc. This list should be approved by the leader.

**Requirement 5:** The bears, with their den/pack, will be able to plan a cooked lunch or dinner that is nutritious and balanced. The bears should make a shopping list and along with the leader help shop for food (including fruits, grains, vegetables and a protein source) for the campout. The bears will also help cook one meal and cleanup afterward

**Requirement 6:** The bears, with their den/pack and help from their leader, will cook a different meal from the one they prepared for requirement 5 and that meal should be cooked outdoors.

**Requirement 7:** The bears, with their den/pack and help from their leader, will help pitch a tent, picking a good spot for the tent and explain to the leader why they chose that spot.

## *Program Links Bear Scout*

**Fur, Feathers and Ferns:** The Bear scouts will begin to explore the world of mammals, birds, plants and more! The Bear scouts will learn about the world of creatures and how we affect our environment.

**Note to Bear Leaders:** There will be a specific PDF for this adventure on the website [www.patuxent.fws.gov](http://www.patuxent.fws.gov)

**The scouts should practice Leave No Trace and the Outdoor Code when visiting the refuge and while on the trails**

### **LEADER'S GUIDE**

#### **Bear Scout Fur, Feathers and Ferns**

**Requirement 1:** For this requirement the scouts, will need to walk at least one mile on any of the refuge's trails systems. The bears will be able to identify six signs that mammals, birds, insects, reptiles or plants are living nearby the trail or trails they are on. Identification could also include tracks, scat, chewed leaves, bird nests, flowers, holes in trees etc. The bears should remember to stretch before hiking and pack the six Cub Scout Essentials for the hike.

**Suggested Activities:** At the South Tract location, use the Loop, Goose Pond and part of Cash Lake Trail System. Each scout should have a nature journal, a pencil and the six Cub Scout Essentials for the hike. The scouts should observe and note in their journals signs of animals or draw a picture of the signs of an animal habitat (like nests, holes in the trees etc.)

**Requirement 2:** The scouts will be able to name at least one animal that has become extinct in the last 100 years (see Global Concerns, On the Brink Exhibit and look for the Hawaiian O'O' bird). The bears will also name one animal that is currently endangered (see same exhibit for animals like the American crocodile, the Puerto Rican parrot, the Whooping Crane etc.) The bears will be able to explain to their leader what caused the decline of these animals (mostly human impact on the environment)

**Suggested Activity 1:** At the South Tract location, the scouts should visit the On the Brink exhibit and view the Hawaiian O'O'bird exhibit. Due to habitat loss and human impact, this bird is most likely extinct. There are other animals in the "On the Brink" exhibit (either models or mounts) and none of the animals were killed for exhibit purposes. In the majority of cases, the animals became endangered or threatened due to human impact on their environment. Each display will give information on specific impacts depending on the species of animal.

## **Requirement 2 (continued)**

**Suggested Activity 2:** There is another bird that lived in the United States that became extinct. The Passenger Pigeon became extinct due to predators, human entrapment and loss of forested habitats (chestnuts and beech). The last passenger pigeon to survive was Martha who died in 1914 at the age of 29. For more information, go to [www.si.edu/Encyclopedia\\_SI/nmnh/passpig.html](http://www.si.edu/Encyclopedia_SI/nmnh/passpig.html) or Google "Extinction: The story of the Passenger Pigeon"

**Suggested Activity 3:** To find out more about the Whooping crane, the scouts can visit the Lifecycles display – Whooping Cranes at the National Wildlife Visitor Center or the following websites

[www.operationmigration.org/work\\_wcranes](http://www.operationmigration.org/work_wcranes)

[www.fws.gov/southeast/ea/images/cranetearsheet](http://www.fws.gov/southeast/ea/images/cranetearsheet)

**Requirement 3:** The scouts and the pack/den will visit the Patuxent Research Refuge (either North Tract or South Tract) and describe what they learned during their visit (e.g. type of habitats, animals living in the wild on the refuge, what a refuge is etc.)

**Suggested Activity:** Using a nature journal, the scouts with their pack/den can visit the National Wildlife Visitor Center at South Tract or North Tract. They can record information about meadows, forest and wetlands and any observations of wildlife in the exhibits or in a natural setting

**Requirement 4:** The bears will be observing wildlife from a distance then describe what they saw. Binoculars are recommended. There are wildlife blinds at the end of the boardwalk and observation areas located in various areas by the trails

**Suggested Activity:** Using a pair of binoculars, the scouts can visit wildlife blind at the end of the boardwalk and use their binoculars to observe waterfowl like egrets, herons, and geese etc., different types of reptiles, amphibians or mammals. Since all the animals are in a natural setting, they may or may not be visible in the wetland or forested areas.

**Requirement 5:** The scouts will be using a magnifying glass (provided by the den/pack) to examine plants more closely. The bears will decide what they could see through the magnifying glass that they could not see without it. The bears will not disturb the habitat of either plants or animals while meeting this requirement.

**Suggested Activity:** Using a magnifying glass, the scouts may examine plants that are along the trails. The scouts must be very careful not to touch the plants (as they could be a habitat for insects) in their nature journals, the bears can write or draw what they observed.

## *Wolf Elective Adventure*

**Finding Your Way:** Learning to read and use a map and compass is a valuable skill for Wolf scouts. In this adventure, the Wolf Scouts will be given an introduction to maps and symbols as well as the four cardinal directions (north, south, east, west) as well as basic functions of a compass.

**At the Refuge:** (pre-requisite: know the basic cardinal directions and how to read a simple compass)  
See website and resource list for trail maps and other information

**Requirement 3A:** The Wolf Scout will be able to identify what a compass rose is and where it is on a map...  
Leaders Note: Some of the trail maps at the refuge may not have a compass rose but just an arrow pointing north.

**Requirement 3B:** The Wolf Scout will use a compass to identify which direction is north. They will also show to determine the 3 other cardinal directions South, East and West.

**Requirement 5:** Using a map and a compass, the Wolf Scout will go on a hike with their den/pack or family. They will plan a simple route to follow using a compass. The Wolf Scout will need to remember the Cub Scout Six Essentials to take on the hike and to dress for the weather.

## *Bear Elective Adventure*

**A Bear Goes Fishing:** Fishing is a skill that can become a lifelong hobby or possibly a career. It is something that can be done with family and friends. For Bear scouts, it is also an opportunity to learn about the Scout Law.

**At the Refuge:** Both North and South Tract have fishing areas Please check our website [Patuxent.fws.gov](http://Patuxent.fws.gov) for more information about fishing opportunities. A Maryland State Fishing license is required before a Refuge permit is issued. Also, there are specific procedures for group fishing. Please check with the volunteers at the National Wildlife Visitor Center and the Contact Station at North Tract.

## Program Links Webelos Scouts

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### Webelos First Year Core Adventures

**Webelos Walkabout:** The Webelos Scouts have learned about preparing for the outdoors and hiking in past ranks (Tigers, Wolves and Bears) This Adventure will not only give the boys more hiking experience but also give the boys an opportunity to help their community by doing a hiking-related service project

#### Webelos First Year Core Adventures Webelos Walkabout

**At the Refuge:** See website and resource list for trail maps and other information

**Requirement 1:** The Webelos Scout will create a hike plan. They decide how far the den/pack should hike and about how long the hike plan will take. The Webelos can use the North and South Tract Trail Pamphlets to help them

**Requirement 2:** The Webelos Scout will assemble a hiking first aid kit according to Scout standards

**Requirement 3:** The Webelos Scout will describe and identify from photos any poisonous or dangerous animals and insects the den/pack might encounter while on their hike. Examples would include poison ivy, deer ticks, chiggers, bees, hornets, spiders etc. There are no poisonous or venomous snakes on the refuge.

**Requirement 4 and 5:** Before going on the planned hike, the Webelos Scouts will recite together with their den/pack the Outdoor Code and Leave No Trace Principles and plan to prepare a nutritious lunch and enjoy the hike.

**Requirement 6:** The Webelos Scout, with their den/pack or family, will hike 3 miles in the country or forested area (remembering the pack the Scout Basic Essentials including weather gear, a map and a compass

## **Webelos Walkabout (continued)**

**Requirement 7:** Under direction of their scout leader, the Webelos Scout will complete a service project on or near the hike locations. The leader and the den/pack will plan with the guidance of a refuge park ranger the project they would like to do.

**Requirement 8:** Under the direction of their scout leader, the Webelos Scout will perform one of the following leadership roles during their hike: trail leader, first-aid leader, lunch leader or project leader.

## *Webelos Elective Adventure*

**Into the Wild:** For this adventure, the Webelos Scout will learn how to identify different types of animals including birds, reptiles, amphibians, mammals, and insects. They will learn how to describe how different animals survive in their habitats, identify what a food chain is and why the balance of nature is so important. The Webelos will also learn about aquatic ecosystems and the roles different aquatic animals play in wetland environments

**At the Refuge:** Both North and South Tract have examples of forests, wetlands and meadows which will aid the Webelos Scout in completing some of the requirements for this elective. Seasonally, the Webelos Scout may observe different types of birds, reptiles, amphibians, mammals and insects at both tracts

This elective adventure may be offered as a workshop at the National Wildlife Visitor Center. Please check our website [www.patuxent.fws.gov](http://www.patuxent.fws.gov)

**Requirement 3:** Observe and identify different types of birds on the refuge. The Webelos Scout can also identify the different types of habitats birds are found in

**Requirement 4:** Learn about bird flyways closest to your home. In the Bird Migration exhibit area (at the Visitor Center) there is a large detailed flyway map that shows different species of birds and the patterns of migration.

**Requirement 5 and 6:** Observe and identify different species of animals and their habitat. The Webelos Scout may see signs of animals in the forest, wetlands and meadows.

**Requirement 7:** Give examples of producers, consumers and decomposers found in a food chain (See Wolf Exhibit at the Visitor Center). Give one example of human impact on the environment and how humans can help the balance of nature (see Global Concerns Exhibit at the Visitor Center)

**Requirement 8:** Learn about aquatic ecosystems at the refuge Visit one of the ponds or lakes and observe wildlife or signs of wildlife. Discuss with your den the lifecycle of an aquatic animal like a frog. Name at least 3 ways humans can help the aquatic ecosystems.

**Into the Woods:** For this adventure, the Webelos Scout will learn how to identify plants and trees in our world and how they differ by location. The Webelos Scout will also learn about our ecosystems and the importance of conserving our natural resources.

**At the Refuge: Note for leaders:** This elective adventure may be offered as a workshop at the National Wildlife Visitor Center. Please check our website [www.patuxent.fws.gov](http://www.patuxent.fws.gov)

**Requirement 1:** The Webelos Scout will be identifying two different groups (conifer and deciduous) of trees and the parts of a tree (including the roots, trunk, crown) The Webelos will also describe why each part of the tree is important to the tree's survival.

**Requirement 2:** The Webelos Scout will be able to identify six different trees at the refuge or in the area (e.g. Virginia pine, oak, pitch pine, etc.). The Webelos Scout should use identifiers like leaf patterns, bark; needles etc. help them identify the trees. The Webelos Scout should also be able to tell their leader whether the trees are native and how both wildlife and humans use them.

**Requirement 3:** The Webelos Scout should be able to identify six different plants (other than trees) that are common on the refuge or in the area (e.g. milkweed, ferns, cattails etc.)The Webelos Scout should be able to tell their leaders which animals use the plants and for what purposes the animals may use the plants.=

**Requirement 4:** The Webelos Scout should visit a refuge or park and speak to a naturalist or park ranger about trees and plants native to the area. The Webelos Scout should be able to explain to their leaders how the plants and trees are important to the ecosystem and how they improve the environment.

**Requirement 7 –** The Webelos Scout should be able to explain how the growth rings of a tree tell its life story and explain the importance of bark on a tree.

# Scout Program Links Boy Scout

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Refer to the 2000 Boy Scout Requirements book to see the specific requirements.

Resource: [www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/tenderfoot](http://www.scouting.org/scoutsource/BoyScouts/AdvancementandAwards/tenderfoot)

## Tenderfoot Rank Requirements

**#1 ( North Tract, at a camping experience)** The scout will show that he is properly ready to go on an overnight camping trip, including the camping gear he will use and the proper way to pack and carry it to the campsite

**#2 (North Tract, at a camping experience)** The scout will spend at least one night with their patrol or troop and sleep in a tent they have pitched.

**#3 (North Tract, at a camping experience)** The scout will assist in preparing and cooking one of the patrols meals and tell why it is important that each patrol member share in preparation and cleanup of each meal. The scout will also explain the importance of eating together.

## Second Class Rank Requirements

**#1a ( North and/or South Tract)** The scout will demonstrate how a compass works, how to orient a map and explain the symbols on a map. There are trail maps and refuge species maps at our website [www.patuxent.fws.gov](http://www.patuxent.fws.gov) **About the Refuge, Refuge Publications, Trail Maps and other PDF's)**

**#1b (North and/or South Tract)** The scout will use a map and compass together, and take a 5 mile hike that is approved by the adult leader and the scouts parent or guardian.

**#2** Under the guidance of an adult leader, the scout will explain the principles of Leave No Trace.

**#3b ( North Tract, at a camping experience)** The scout will spend at least one night with his patrol or troop and sleep in a tent he has pitched. The scout will explain what factors they considered when choosing a patrol site and where to pitch a tent

**#5 (North and/or South Tract)** As approved by the scout leader and volunteer coordinator at Patuxent Research Refuge, the scout will participate in an service project of at least one hour in length.

**#6 (North and/or South Tract)** The scout will identify or show evidence of at least 10 kinds of wild animals (birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish) found on the refuge or in his community.

## First Class Rank Requirements

**#6** The scout will visit the Bayscape or School Yard Habitat areas at the National Wildlife Visitor Center to identify at least 10 types of native plants or visit North Tract and identify 10 types of native plants. Note: a field guide might be required for this activity

## Star, Life and Eagle Rank Requirements

See list of Merit Badge requirements that are able to be completed at Patuxent Research Refuge (South Tract and/or North Tract)

If your troop is interested in doing a service project either at North Tract or South Tract please contact the Volunteer Coordinator at Patuxent Research Refuge. (check Staff Directory on website

[www.patuxent.fws.gov](http://www.patuxent.fws.gov)

### *List of Merit Badge Requirements that can be completed at the Patuxent Research Refuge (North Tract and/or South Tract)*

#### Art



**#4** the scout will visit the National Wildlife Visitor Center or the Patuxent Research Refuge North Tract. Hike a trail and chose a view to record in an art medium. (pen and ink, pencil, charcoal etc.)

**#6** with your parent's permission and your counselor's approval, the scout will visit the National Wildlife Visitor Center, Hollingsworth Art Gallery and view the different mediums used by professional artists.

#### Bird Study



**#4** The scout will be able to know how to use a bird field guide including understanding a range map, pointing out various wintering ranges, breeding ranges and/or year-round ranges for one of these species of birds they may spot at either North Tract or South Tract (common species that have been observed include red shoulder and red tailed hawks, warblers, herons, egrets)

**#5** The scout will begin observing and identifying at least 20 species of wild birds found at either North or South Tract. The scout will keep a record in a field notebook or journal and keep a separate entry of each bird observed including date and time, location and habitat, bird's main feeding habitats (including two sources of food for that species) and a notation of whether the species is a migrant or a summer, winter or year round resident at the refuge. The scouts can refer to the **Birds of Patuxent pamphlet** available at the front desk of the Visitor Center or the Contact Station at North Tract.

## Bird Study (continued)

The Wildlife Telltales Exhibit in the National Wildlife Visitor Center explains how studying birds can give warning signs of changes in the environment. The Getting a Handle on Habitats display shows how loss of habitat affects the populations and how they are monitored.

The Viewing Pod has binoculars and spotting scopes you can use to observe birds on Lake Redington.

Look for birds in the wetland, lake, meadow, and forest habitats near the National Wildlife Visitor Center. Bring a field guide along to help identify them. A list of common birds on the refuge is available from the front desk.

You may want to listen to recordings of common birds before you go to the Refuge to help you identify what you hear in the field. Walk the trails or take a tram tour to see and hear many species of birds.

## Camping



Primitive camping can be done at the Patuxent Research Refuge North Tract. Call the North Tract Contact Station at 301-776-3090 for more information.

**#5 a (at North Tract)** The scouts will prepare a list of clothing for overnight campouts (both warm and cold weather). The scouts should be able to explain layering.

**#5b (at North Tract)** The scouts will be able to determine the correct footwear for different kinds of weather and why the correct footwear is important while camping.

**#5c (at North Tract)** The scouts will be able to explain the proper care and storage of camping equipment including clothing, footwear, bedding etc.

**#5d (at North Tract)** The scouts will be able to list all the outdoor essentials for any campout, and explain why each item is needed.

**a#6a (at North Tract)** The scouts will be able to describe the features of 4 different types of tents, when and where they could be used and how to care for tents. The scouts will work with another scout to pitch a tent.

**#6b (at North Tract)** The scouts will be able to discuss the importance of camp sanitation and tell why water treatment is essential. The scouts will be able to demonstrate two ways to treat water.

## Camping (continued)

**#6c (at North Tract)** The scouts will be able to describe the factors to be considered in deciding where to pitch your tent.

**#7a,b (at North Tract)** The scouts will be able to prepare for an overnight campout with their patrol by making a checklist of personal and patrol gear that will be needed and pack their own gear and share patrol equipment and food for proper carrying.

**#9a (at North Tract)** The scouts may camp with their patrol or troop at designated primitive campsites on the North Tract. The scouts should be able to sleep under the sky or in a tent they have pitched

**#9b-2 (at North Tract)** During their campout, the scouts should be able to backpack, snowshoe or cross-country ski for at least 4 miles. North Tract offers approximately 20 miles of hiking trails

**#9b-3 (at North Tract)** During their campout, the scouts should be able to take a bike trip of at least 15 miles or at least four hours. North Tract Wildlife Loop offers approximately 11 miles (one way) of paved road open to cycling.

**#9-3 (at North Tract)** The scouts should be able to plan and carry out an overnight snow camping experience. Scout camping is permitted at North Tract year round on a reserved basis.

**#9c (at North Tract)** During their campout, the scouts should be able to perform a conservation project approved by Refuge management. Contact the Refuge Volunteer Coordinator in advance for project planning and approval.



## Cycling

Cycling can be done on the Patuxent Research Refuge North Tract. Check at the Contact Station for more information about which trails are open and the most suitable. The North Tract contact number is **301-497-5770**

**#1a** The scout will be able to explain the most likely hazards you may encounter while participating in cycling activities and what he should do to anticipate, help prevent, mitigate and respond to these hazards.

**#2c** The scout will explain the importance of wearing a properly sized and fitted helmet while cycling, and of wearing the right clothing for the weather. Know the BSA bike Safety Guidelines

**#6** The scout will be able to describe the state and local traffic laws for bicycles. Compare them with motor-vehicle laws

**#7 a** The scout will be able to demonstrate the following (with a counselor) concerning road biking

## Cycling (continued)

(1) Properly mount, pedal and brake including emergency stops.

(2) Demonstrate a properly execute a right turn

(5) Show proper curbside and road-edge riding

**B. Mountain Biking** – The scout will be able to demonstrate the following (with a counselor) concerning mountain biking.

**a.** Take a trail ride with your counselor and demonstrate the following:

(1) Properly mount, pedal and brake, including emergency stops

### **Cycling (continued)**

(2) Show shifting skills as applicable to climbs and obstacles.

(3) Show proper trail etiquette to hikers and other cyclists, including when to yield the right-of-way

(4) Show proper technique for riding up and down hills

(5) Demonstrate how to correctly cross an obstacle by either going over the obstacle on your bike or dismounting your bike and crossing over or around the obstacle

(6) Cross rocks, gravel and roots properly

**b.** Describe the rules of trail riding, including how to know when a trail is unsuitable for riding.

**c.** On trails approved by your counselor, take two rides of 2 miles each, two rides of 5 miles each and two rides of 8 miles each. Make a report of the rides taken, list dates for the routes traveled and list interesting things seen on the rides



## Disability Awareness

The National Wildlife Visitor Center and grounds were created to be accessible to as many people as possible. The Cash Lake fishing pier, 2 mile of the trails and the visitor center are all accessible to wheelchairs and strollers.. Talk to a volunteer or staff member if you have any suggestions on how to make the visitor center more accessible to everyone.

**#3 c** The scout will be able to learn how people with disabilities take part in a particular recreational activity like hiking or visit a location that is handicap accessible. **(part of the South Tract trail system and the National Wildlife Visitor Center.)**

**#4** The scout will visit a public attraction like the **National Wildlife Visitor Center** and take notes about the accessibility to people with a disability.



## Environmental Science

**#2** Many of the terms are identified in the exhibits at the **National Wildlife Visitor Center**.

**#3** Background information for the following explorations can be found in the National Wildlife Visitor Center Exhibits.

a. Ecology

3. The scouts will be able to discuss what an ecosystem is including how it is maintained in nature and how it survives – **(North Tract and South Tract including National Wildlife Visitor Center)**

b. Air Pollution

3. The scouts will be able to explain what acid rain is and how it affects plants and the environment. The scouts should also be able to tell what steps are being taken to help reduce the effects of acid rain **(National Wildlife Visitor Center – Global Concerns “Deadly Rain”)**

c. Water Pollution

3. The scouts will be able to explain and describe the impact of a waterborne pollutant on an aquatic community. **(National Wildlife Visitor Center – Global Concerns “Ocean Pollution”)**

## Environmental Science (continued)

### e. Endangered Species

1. The scouts should be able to begin to do research on one endangered species found in Maryland (**National Wildlife Visitor Center – “On the Brink” Exhibit – Piping Plover Indiana Bat** (Note: *The Delmarva fox squirrel has been taken off of the endangered species list in the state of Maryland*) For more information about lists of endangered species go to the Fish and Wildlife Website [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov))

2. The scouts will be able to begin to do research on one species that was endangered, threatened or of special concern but now has recovered. (**National Wildlife Visitor Center “On the Brink Exhibit” Delmarva Fox Squirrel**) ) Another resources for the scout would be the Fish and Wildlife Website [www.fws.gov](http://www.fws.gov))

**#6** Explore The Wisdom of Wildness exhibits for lots of information on how people work in environmental fields. Watch the videos in the Life Cycles exhibit to learn what researchers are doing to help wildlife. Talk to a volunteer about how they work with the environment. Talk to a park ranger about career opportunities with the Fish and Wildlife Services. Check out the Fish and Wildlife website and link to **Jobs** [www.fws.gov/humancapital](http://www.fws.gov/humancapital)



Fishing at the Patuxent Research Refuge may be done at South Tract Cash Lake seasonally or at North Tract – Please contact North Tract for more information about their lakes and ponds at 301-497-5770. Permits for fishing may be obtained at the National Wildlife Visitor Center front desk or the contact station at North Tract. A Maryland state permit must be obtained before the refuge will issue fishing permits on refuge property.

**#1 a.** The scout will meet with his counselor and explain the most likely hazards he may encounter while participating in fishing activities. The scout will be able to explain what he should do to anticipate, help prevent, mitigate and respond to these hazards.

**b.** The scout will discuss the prevention of and treatment for the following health concerns that could occur while fishing, including cuts and scratches, puncture wounds, insect bites, hypothermia, dehydration, heat exhaustion and sunburn.

**c.** The scout will explain how to remove a hook that has lodged in your arm.

**d.** The scout will be able to name and explain five safety practices you should always follow while fishing

**#3** The scout will be able to explain and demonstrate the proper use of two different types of fishing equipment.

## Fishing (continued)

**#6 a** The scout will be able to explain the importance of practicing **Leave No Trace** techniques and discuss the positive effects of **Leave No Trace** on fishing resources.

**b.** The scout will be able to discuss the meaning and importance of catch and release. The scout should be able to describe how to properly release a fish safely in the water.

**#8** The scout will be able to explain what good outdoor sportsmanlike behavior is and how it relates to anglers. The scout will also be able to tell how the **Outdoor Code of the Boy Scouts of America** relates to a fishing sports enthusiast, including the aspects of littering, trespassing, courteous behavior and obeying fishing regulations.



## Fish and Wildlife Management

**#1** The scout will ride on a seasonal tram tour (will need to call 301-497-5760 for tram availability and times ) or talk to a staff member or volunteer about the meaning of fish and wildlife conservation and management. Look in the **Wisdom of Wildness exhibits** (at the National Wildlife Visitor Center) to learn about many types of conservation and management practices. The scout should be able to describe the meaning and purposes of fish and wildlife conservation and management.

**#2** The scout will be able to list and discuss at least three major problems that continue to threaten Maryland's state and local fish and wildlife resources. Use the **Wisdom of Wildness exhibits (especially the Chesapeake Bay Exhibit)** to help find out about the major environmental problems. Ask a park ranger about some local environmental problems on the Patuxent Research Refuge.

**#3** The scout will be able to describe some practical ways in which everyone can help with the fish and wildlife effort. (Like Pack it in, Pack it out Leave No Trace - Scouts Outdoor Code - Reduce, Reuse -Recycle etc.)

**#4** The scout will be able to list and describe five major fish and wildlife management practices used by management at the Patuxent Research Refuge. Check with a park ranger or the refuge manager to help you meet this requirement.

**#5a** Ask at the information desk for instructions on how to make a bluebird box.

## **#6**

**a.** The scout will begin to observe and record 25 species of wildlife on the refuge. Bring field guides and binoculars to help you identify the different animals that you see. Try looking in a variety of habitats to find different kinds of animals. Also look for animal signs such as homes, tracks, or scat. These can include mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and fish. The scout will record his findings in a journal or notebook listing the name of the species and the location in which it was found.

## Forestry



The trails around the National Wildlife Visitor Center and the Patuxent Research Refuge North Tract have many tree and shrub species that you can identify. Be sure to bring a field identification book along. Ask a staff member or volunteer to show you where you can see succession happening.

**#1** The scout will record observations in a journal or field notebook. Have a field guide for trees to help you with identification. Identify 15 species of trees, wild shrubs or vines at Patuxent Research Refuge (on North and South Tract Trails) The scout will write a description in your journal or field notebook identifying and discussing the following:

- a. The characteristics of leaves, twigs, cones or fruits on a tree, shrub or vine
- b. The habitat and locations in which you found the tree, shrub or vine
- c. The important ways in which each tree, shrub or vine is used by humans and wildlife and whether the species is native to the area. If it is not native, explain whether it is considered invasive or potentially invasive.

**#2 b** On a North or South Tract trail, the scout will find and examine three stumps or logs that show variation in the growth of their ring patterns. In a field notebook or journal, the scout will describe the location or origin of each example (including elevation of the land) and discuss possible reason for the variation of each growth rate. (Include photographs or drawings of each example)

**#3b** The scout will be able to describe the contributions forests make to the Maryland economy in form of products, the social well-being of people including recreation like hiking, soil protection and increased fertility, clean water, clean air, wildlife habitat, threatened and endangered species of plants and animals.

**#6ab** The scout will be able to observe the Deforestation and Land Exploitation sections of the **Global Concerns Exhibits at the National Wildlife Visitor Center** to learn about specific problems that damage forests. The scout will be able to describe the consequences to forests resulting from insects, tree diseases, air pollution, overgrazing, deer and other wildlife, overpopulation, improper harvest, and urbanization. The scout should be able to explain what can be done to reduce those consequences and problems.

**#7a** Patuxent Research Refuge has many volunteer opportunities available to help in the management of our refuge. Inquire at the front desk for more information.



## Hiking

**The Patuxent Research Refuge has many hiking trails available. Inquire at the National Wildlife Visitor Center or the North Tract Contact Station for more information. Trail maps are also available on line at [www.patuxent.fws.gov](http://www.patuxent.fws.gov)**

**#1.** The scout will be able to explain to your counselor the most likely hazards he may encounter while hiking, and what he should do to anticipate, help prevent, mitigate and respond to each of those hazards (e.g. poison ivy, fallen branches on trails, proper clothing to wear etc.)

**#2** The scout will be able to point out good hiking practices including the principle of **Leave No Trace**, hiking safety in the daytime and night, courtesy to others, choice of footwear and proper care of feet and footwear.

**#4** The scout will be able to make a written plan for a 10 mile hike (**at North Tract**) including map routes, a clothing and equipment list and a list of items for a trail lunch (remember to **Leave No Trace**)

**#5** The scouts will take five hikes, each on a different day and each of 10 continuous miles (**at North Tract**) including stopping for short rests, and planning for one meal during each hike.



## Mammal Study

**#3a** The Patuxent Research Refuge has many different habitats available to study including wetlands, meadows, and forests.

**#3b** There are many types of mammals that live on the refuge, but many may be difficult to view. The scout will walk the trails and look for mammal signs such as homes, food remains, droppings, or tracks. The scout may want to research the different types of mammals found in this area so you will have an idea of what to look for. The scout may want to bring a field guide to help identify what he sees.



## Nature

**#1** The scout will observe the animals and displays in the On the Brink and Life Cycles exhibits to learn how animals (particularly the Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Puerto Rican Parrot, and Canvasback Duck) depend on plants. Otters depend on plants also, but in an indirect way. Find out how.

## **Birds**

- (a) The scout will look for birds in the wetland, meadow and forest habitats near the National Wildlife Visitor Center. Bring a field guide along to help identify them. A list of common birds found on the refuge is also available at the front desk.

The scout will ask, at the information desk, for instructions on how to make a bluebird box.

## **Mammals**

- (a) The scout will ask at the front desk of the National Wildlife Visitor Center for a list of mammals found on the refuge. There are many types of mammals that live on the refuge but many may be difficult to view. The scout will walk the trails and look for signs such as homes, food remains, droppings, or tracks.

## **Fish**

- (a) The scout will contact the National Wildlife Visitor Center (301- 497-5760) or North Tract Contact Station (301- 776-3090) to inquire about fishing opportunities on the refuge.



## **Soil and Water Conservation**

**2ab** The scout will look at the **Land Exploitation and Deforestation** sections of the Global Concerns exhibit for information on soils.

**#4ad** The scout will observe the **Chesapeake Bay** section of **the Handle on Habitats** exhibit to learn about watersheds and river basins.

**#5cde** The scout will explore the **Global Concerns and Handle on Habitats** exhibits to learn how human environment interactions affect the land and different types of habitats.

**#6ab** The scout will look at **the Ocean Pollution** section of the Global Concerns exhibit and the **Chesapeake Bay and Central Valley of California** sections of Handle on Habitats exhibit for information on water pollution.

**#7a3** The National Wildlife Visitor Center is located on the Patuxent Research Refuge, a National Wildlife Refuge. The scout will take a tram tour to learn about how the waste water from the Visitor Center is treated and how erosion is controlled near Lake Redington.

**Hornaday Award and World Conservation Award** Complete the required merit badges. Many of them can be worked on at the National Wildlife Visitor Center.

# Girl Scout Program Links

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Leaders: The listings below are ways that the girls can meet **some of the requirements** for their different awards at the Patuxent Research Refuge (Both North and South Tract)

## Daisy Girl Scouts

### Promise Center and Learning Petals

Discover – Demonstrate increased interest in learning new skills

Connect – Identify community people and places and understand their contributions

Take Action – Feel their actions are important to others

### **At the Refuge:**



### **Clover – Practice Being Resourceful**

- a. With their Daisy friends, family and leader, the scout will be able to come up with three ways you can use resources wisely. Visit the Patuxent Research Refuge and ask a park ranger or naturalist about taking care of trees, water and other natural resources. *Connect*
- b. With their Daisy friends, family and leader, the scout will read (with the leaders help) the **South Tract** pamphlet section “**Regulation**” and discuss those regulations as a group (e.g. why does the refuge have regulations, how can you practice some of those regulations) *Discover*



### **Rosie – Make the World a Better Place**

- a. With their Daisy friends, family and leader, the scout will practice recycling (like a trash free lunch) when you visit the Patuxent Research Refuge (both North Tract and South Tract) *Take Action*
- b. With their Daisy friends, family and leader, the scout will do a refuge cleanup (either at North Tract or South Tract). Practice Leave No Trace principles *Take Action*

## Leadership Journey Awards



### **It's Your Planet – Love It Between Earth and Sky**

#### **At the Refuge**

- a. With their Daisy friends, family and leader, the scout will visit the Patuxent Research Refuge and go on a trail walk (either North or South Tract). *Discover*
- b. With their Daisy friends, family and leader, the scout will talk to a park ranger or naturalist at the Patuxent Research Refuge (either North or South Tract) about ways to help protect the environment  
*Connect*

DAISY It's Your Planet – Love It Between Earth and Sky

- c. Clover Award
  1. The scout will learn about and commit to protecting a natural resource in their region – Patuxent Research Refuge *Connect*
  2. The scout will educate and inspire others in their community to join them in protecting Patuxent Research Refuge *Take Action*

# Brownie Girl Scouts

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Girl Scout Brownie Leadership Journey Awards

Legacy Badges



**Naturalist – Bugs**

Note: The requirements for this badge may be met in a refuge workshop. Check our website [www.patuxent.fws.gov](http://www.patuxent.fws.gov) and link onto **visitor activities-Environmental Education – Scout Visits – Scout workshops**

At the Refuge:

Note to Leaders: Make sure you get a trail map from North or South Tract. Have a couple of bags with you for the brownies to do a litter blitz while on the trails. Make sure the girls understand about Leave No Trace and trail etiquette. Avoid any disturbances of the natural habitats of animals.

Step 3 – The scout will be able to **See Bugs in Action** with your brownie friends and leaders, visit the Patuxent Research Refuge, walk the trails (either at North Tract or South Tract) at look for three bugs to see what they are doing. *Discover*. While on a hike, the scout will pick up a trash or recyclables you see on the ground and put them in a bag. *Connect and Take Action*

Step 5 –The scout will **Take a Bug Field Trip** with your brownie friends and leaders, while on the trail walk, see how many other bugs you can find (Bug Hike). Use a magnifying glass to observe bugs high in the branches or low to the ground. *Discover*



## **Skill Building Awards – Its Your Planet, Love It!**

**Hiker – Patuxent Research Refuge has two locations with Trail systems (North Tract and South Tract) Please check the refuge website. [www.patuxent.fws.gov](http://www.patuxent.fws.gov) or visit either location for trail maps and more information.**

**Step 1 –The scout will Decide Where to go Choose a Trail –** Choose either North or South Tract Trail Systems.  
*Discover*

**Step 2 –The scout will Try Out a Hiking Skill –** Learn to follow trail signs by using a North or South Tract Trail Systems map. *Connect*

**Step 3 – The scout will Pick the Right Gear for Your Hike -** Ask an older Girl Scout or experienced hiker what she packs for the trail system or ask a park ranger what kind of gear is best to use on North and South Tract Trail Systems. *Discover*

- a. **Clothing** – What will you need for cool days? For warm days?
- b. **Shoes** – What kinds of shoes would be best for my hike? Boots if rainy or wet, no sandals or open toed shoes
- c. **First Aid Kit** – What is needed in a first aid kit?
- d. **Water** – What kind of container will I carry it in? How will I keep it cool

### **Step 4**

- e. **The scout will prepared an Energy snack** – like nuts, dried fruit, trail bars – How will I store the food? ( in plastic bags, in a backpack) Make your own energy snack like something munchy, something crunchy, something juicy, and something sweet and store it properly. *Discover*

**Step 5 The scout will Go on a Hike** and Practice Leave No Trace and Proper Trail etiquette, Stay safe on the trail, use a buddy, talk about trail hazards , choose a hiking pace that is comfortable and stay with your den  
*Connect*

## Juniors Girl Scouts

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### Skill Building Awards

#### Its Your Planet – Love It

Note to Leaders – The Patuxent Research Refuge (North Tract) has camping sites. Please check the refuge website [www.fws.gov/refuge/Patuxent/visit/visitor\\_activities](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Patuxent/visit/visitor_activities) **Environmental Education - Scout Visits** for more information about camping. The camp sites are available by reservation only.

Note to Leaders – **For the Camper award, not all requirements will be met when camping at a site on the refuge.**

Note to Leaders – The Juniors should have a journal or notebook with them to complete Step 5 – Keeping a Journal



#### **Camper –**

**Step 1 –The scout will Start Planning Your Adventure** – Pick a campsite (like the one at North Tract). Keep in mind the activities you want to plan and a budget for your adventure. *Discover*

**Step 2 – The scout will Gain a New Camping Skill** – Use a compass and map to follow a set of trails on North Tract. Know the directions North, South, East and West and the difference between true and magnetic north. Take a compass bearing from a map and follow it, sight an object and walk to it and return from your starting point (Note to Leaders: This skill will require prior knowledge of reading a compass and knowing the difference between true and magnetic north) *Take Action*

**Step 3 – The scout will Find Your Inner Camp Chef** – While camping at North Tract, all regulations must be followed especially those for building a fire (see Scout Camping Guidelines – North Tract and contact North Tract about camping opportunities) Cook a meal on a stick over an open fire. Please follow practices of Leave No Trace. Also, all safety and clean up practices must be followed when starting a campfire and putting the fire out. *Connect and Take Action*

**Step 5 – The scout will Try a New Activity** – Keep a written journal of your camping experiences

**Step 4 – The scout will Head Out on Your Own Trip- and Have Some Nighttime Fun** – Have all the juniors gather around a campfire and tell favorite stories or sing favorite songs. *Connect*

## JUNIOR GIRL SCOUTS (CONTINUED)

### Its Your Story – Tell It



#### **Animal Habitats**

Note to Leaders A workshop for this badge may be held at the National Wildlife Visitor Center. Please check our website for further information [www.fws.gov/refuge/Patuxent/visit/visitor\\_activities](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Patuxent/visit/visitor_activities) **Environmental Education - Scout Visits**

**For Brownies not participating in a workshop – Note to Leaders: The juniors should have a nature journal or notebook to record their observations. Also, bags should be available to clean up litter that they see. Some of the requirements may not be met at the refuge**

**Step 1 Find Out About Wild Animals – The scout will List wild animals near your home, meeting place or school –** Visit the refuge (either North or South Tract) and take a hike on one of the trails. Pick 3 animals that you saw and learn more about each one. Why do they live in that habitat? Do they interact with humans?

*Discover*

**Step 2 The scout will Investigate An Animal Habitat – Explore an Animal Habitat near where you live –** Visit the refuge (either North or South Tract) Look for animals or signs of animals. Figure out what the animals have in common and what their habitat is (forest, wetlands or meadows). Share with your fellow scouts about some of the features of those animals: like type of fur or skin, coloring, number of legs etc. *Discover and Connect*. While exploring the habitats, look for litter or recyclables and put them in a bag then put them in a proper container. *Take Action*

**Step 3 The scout will Create an Animal House (on the own or at a den meeting)**

**Step 4 – The scout will Explore Endangered Habitats –** Note to Leaders: The National Wildlife Visitor Center has displays on Endangered and Threatened animals which will help the juniors answer the following questions *Discover*

- a. Why are the animals endangered?
- b. What is happening to the animals?
- c. What are people trying to do to help the habitats of those animals?
- d. Are the animals able to adapt to their environment?

Note to Leaders: There is an Arctic display in the main lobby which includes a polar bear, and an arctic fox

**Step 5 The scout will Help Protect animal habitats – See Step 2 -** While exploring the habitats, look for litter or recyclables and put them in a bag then put them in a proper container. *Take Action*

## It's Your World – Change It!



### **Digital Photographer**

**Step 1 – The scout will Learn about Digital Cameras from an expert** – Visit a local camera store and ask the salesperson to teach you about different types of digital cameras and different common digital modes on the camera (e.g. portrait, landscape, automatic etc.) *Discover*

**Step 2 – The scout will Take Tons of Photographs** – Have a digital camera with you. While you are visiting the refuge there are a lot of opportunities to take quality photographs including animals and landscapes. This is also a good way of Leaving No Trace. Please stay on the trails while taking photographs. *Connect and Take Action*

**Step 3 – The scout will Edit Three Photos** – There are many stand-alone or on-line photo editing programs. *Connect*

**Step 4 – The scout will Make a Digital Project** – Create a collage of the various animals and landscapes you saw while visiting the refuge and fit them into a single theme like life in the forest. *Discover and Connect*

**Step 5 – The scout will Share your photos** – Make a digital album from stand alone or on-line photo editing programs. *Connect*

# Cadette Girl Scouts

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Legacy

Trees



**Step 2 –The scout will Dig Into the amazing science of trees.** Be a naturalist in your neighborhood or community. At the refuge, take a hike on the trails (either North or South Tract – Schoolyard Habitat is recommended) Have a nature journal or nature notebook with you (and a pencil). A tree field guide would also be helpful. Identify at least five different types of trees then make a tree map. All of the trees in the Schoolyard Habitat were planted and all are natives to Maryland. Record your observations. *Discover*

**Step 3 – The scout will Make a creative tree project starring trees.** Capture a tree in your nature journal or notebook. Draw or sketch what different types of trees look like in the wild. Make sure you identify each tree. Make sure to include the needles, leaves, branches, bark etc. in your drawing or sketch. *Connect*

**Step 4 – The scout will Explore the Connection Between People and Trees** Visit the Global Concerns Exhibit at the National Wildlife Visitor Center – Deforestation. In your nature journal or notebook, answer the following questions. *Discover*

- a. Reasons why people cut down trees
- b. What are some of the issues when people cut down trees?
- c. What are some ways people can save forest?
- d. Debate with a friend about the pros and cons of deforestation

**Step 5 The scout will Help Trees Thrive** – Plant a tree at your school, backyard or another locale. Make sure the tree matches the need of where it is planted. Know how often it needs to be watered, is it a good habitat for animals and the physical characteristics of the tree

## It's Your Planet – Love it



### Trailblazing

**Step 1 The scout will Start Planning Your Adventure – Do It Yourself** - Pick up maps and information about the refuge from North or South Tract and start your planning checklist (see Trailblazing – Planning Checklist)

*Discover*

**Step 2 The scout will Get her Body and her Teamwork Skills Ready** – Do 3 hikes of at least 30 minutes each with friends you will be hiking with. Try to practice on your own as well. *Discover and Connect*

**Step 3 the scout will Create Your Menu** – Get into quick energy snacks. Plan a menu using energy bars and other non-cook items or quick snacks for your trek. *Connect*

**Step 4 –The scout will Gain Some Trailblazing Know – How** – Practice navigating with a map and compass. Find a topographical map of the area on-line and visualize different map symbols, where to take breaks and how to use a compass to find directions. Orienteering skills are recommended for this activity. *Discover and Connect*

**Step 5 –The scout will Head out on the Trail** – Practice Leave No Trace Principles while on your trek and with your fellow trekkers. *Take Action*

# Seniors Girl Scouts

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Note to Leaders Not all of the requirements for this badge may be completed when you visit Patuxent Research Refuge.

It's Your Planet – Love It



**Adventurer –Patuxent Research Refuge – North Tract**

**Step 1 The scout will Enhance Your Adventure - Get to know the ecology of your adventure area** – With a team; plan an overnight camping trip on North Tract. Get to know what types of flora and fauna you may see at North Tract. Remember to practice Leave No Trace Principles and plan and budget for your trip

**Step 2 – The scout will Get in the Team Spirit and Refine her Teamwork skills** – Spend a day practicing cooperative and initiative games before you set out on your adventure.

**Step 3 –The scout will Know her Gear and Go to a sporting goods store** - Find out the newest and latest type of hiking and camping gear. You can make gradual additions and enhancements to the gear you already have. Make sure you do an equipment safety check and have the right gear for the trip

**Step 4 – The scout will Plan Your Service to the Great Outdoors – Help the Natural Environment** – Check ahead of time with a Park Ranger at North Tract to find a service project your team can do like maintaining a trail or removing trash.

**Step 5 –The scout will Capture the Adventure** – Shoot a digital photo series and make a gallery of your trip or record your experiences in a nature journal keeping a diary of all the things that happened on your adventure.

# Ambassador

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## Photographer

**Step 1** – The scout will have a digital camera and become familiar with it than **Explore the Power of Photography- Go to a Photography Exhibit** (Note: during the year the National Wildlife Visitor Center may have photography exhibits in the Hollingsworth Gallery) Look at each photo without reading the text and see if you can “read” the photography by yourself.

**Step 2 The scout will focus on composition. Shoot Five Landscapes** – Take 5 photos from a different vantage point or angle

**Step 3 The scout will focus on Light. Shoot five portraits or still lifes** – Capture a single object from 5 different perspectives. You might play around with more light, greater distance, zooming, at an angle etc.

**Step 4 –The scout will focus on Motion. Shoot Five Action Shots**