



Girl Scout Brownie Try- It and Junior Badge

1. Junior Girl Scout Badge – must complete 8 activities
2. Brownie Try-It! – must complete 5 activities
3. Cadettes – must complete 9 activities

Purpose: The purpose of this badge is to introduce Girl Scouts to native Texas birds, their natural history, bird conservation issues, famous women in the bird conservation movement, and to give scouts hands-on bird conservation and recreational experiences.

Activities:

1. Discover the world of birds. Take a bird class or attend a lecture with the Houston Audubon Society or another local nature center. Be sure to listen for the answers to these questions:
 - a. Why are birds ecologically important?
 - b. How are birds economically important?
 - c. What makes a bird a bird?
 - d. What is ornithology?
2. Visit a bayou. Watch for birds and other wildlife. Ask a naturalist about the importance of bayous and their role in history. Take a canoe trip down a bayou or take a hike along a bayou. Keep a journal of your observations. Write a haiku about the bayou or make a sketch of what you see when you visit a bayou.
3. Birds need habitat. Visit a nature center to learn about native plants and how they are important to local birds. Trees and plants provide food, shelter, and nesting sites for birds. Be able to identify 10 local trees and plants and be able to explain how they are important to birds.
4. Be a Bird Detective! Birdwatchers and biologists identify birds by sight and sound. Learn to identify 15 local birds by both sight and sound. Play a matching game to help you remember them. Keep a record of all the birds you see and hear in one week.
5. Binoculars are an important tool used by birders and biologists. Visit a retail store that carries binoculars. What are the differences between types of binoculars? Compare features such as weight, magnification, and design of several kinds. Visit a nature center where you can learn to use binoculars properly. Practice your skills while hiking and bird watching.

6. Many hundreds of species of birds travel at certain times of the year. Learn about migration at a nature center or on the internet. Find out the best time to see migratory birds in your area. Visit a wildlife refuge or nature sanctuary during migration. Keep a record of the birds that you observe. Ask a birdwatcher to help you identify 3 new birds. Find out where these three birds have come from and where they are going. Create a map to show their migration journey. Be sure to include what type of habitat they use during the winter and summer. Where do they usually stop along their migration route? What type of habitat is the stopover site? Find out how you can help migratory birds.
7. Women have played an important role in bird conservation. Research famous women of yesterday and today who have worked to help save birds and their habitats. Find out if there are women in your home town who continue to work for birds and their conservation. Visit with a home town bird heroine and find out about her work and how she got involved in bird conservation.
8. The Houston Audubon Society is named after John James Audubon (JJA). Learn about JJA by talking with an expert or looking on the internet. Create an original watercolor painting of a local bird. Observe your subject outside or use a picture to guide your sketch and painting.
9. There are many birds on the Endangered Species List. What local birds are listed as endangered? Why did they become endangered? Work with biologists to help a locally endangered bird or prepare a poster about the bird and present it to your class at school. Be sure to include ways to help the bird.
10. Volunteer at a local zoo, nature center, or avian vet clinic. Help teach visitors about birds or help in the bird department with care, feeding, and cleaning. Keep a journal of your experience to share with other scouts.
11. Help out the birds in your own backyard. Visit a local birding store and find out the best types of food to put out for birds in your area. Why can't you put out any kind of bird seed? What types of feeders and birdhouses can you hang in your yard? What birds will be attracted to your yard? Create a bird feeder with recyclables. Keep it full for one month and record what birds visit the feeder. Provide water with a bird bath. Remember to keep your cat indoors.
12. Cities across the country hold bird festivals each year. Attend a local bird festival. Find out why the festival is held at a particular time of year and what specialty birds the festival highlights.
13. Research local and global threats to birds. Design an information poster about these threats to hang at your school or donate it to a local nature center or bird refuge. Be sure to include ways we can help birds avoid these threats.

For more information: Mary Anne Weber – maweber@houstonaudubon.org
www.houstonaudubon.org

Houston Audubon's Education Department
Sims Bayou Urban Nature Center
3997 River Drive
Houston, TX 77017
713.640.2407

When badge requirements are met you may purchase the patch from Houston Audubon for \$3.00 each.

