



JUNIOR GIRL SCOUT

PLANNING YOUR ZOO TRIP

ANIMAL HABITATS

VISITING THE COLUMBUS ZOO AND AQUARIUM

offers a fun and unique way for your Girl Scouts to complete their badge requirements. Before jumping into the materials on the next few pages, check out the information below to help make your visit as smooth as possible.

Please review the self-guided activities before arriving.

The self-guided materials will address most of the requirements for the *Animal Habitats Badge*, but some of them may need to be completed at home. Check the requirements page for more details.

ADMISSION: Be sure to visit columbuszoo.org for individual and group admission rates, as well as parking rates.

LUNCH AREAS:

- Congo River Market is open year-round. Other food stands are subject to seasonal availability.
- Junior Girl Scouts are welcome to bring lunches into the Zoo with them, but no hard-sided or wheeled coolers are permitted on grounds.
- A Picnic Pavilion is available between the parking lot and Admissions gate. You are welcome to leave coolers in your car or the Picnic Pavilion and utilize the Picnic Pavilion for lunch. Please remember to get a hand stamp from Guest Relations before exiting if you plan on re-entering the Zoo after eating.

ZOO PATCHES:

After completing your visit to the Zoo, stop by the Junior ZooKeeper Gift Shop and buy a Zoo patch for \$2. Ask at the counter to purchase a patch.

WHAT YOU SHOULD BRING WITH YOU:

- Copies of the Self-Guided Activities for each Junior Girl Scout
- Clipboard or something to write on for each Junior Girl Scout
- Pen or pencil for each Junior Girl Scout





JUNIOR GIRL SCOUT ANIMAL HABITATS

STEP #1: Find out about wild animals. Observe a pet or tame animal (like a farm animal) for at least 15 minutes. Write at least three things about how it behaves. Then watch a show about a wild animal related to the one you observed. Which behaviors do the wild and tame animal share? Which are different? *You will need to start Step 1 BEFORE your Zoo trip.

STEP #2: 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 the five animals that live in the habitat.

- In what country is the animal naturally found?
- How does its fur or skin help the animal live in this habitat?
- How does it stay clean?
- How does it get around in this habitat?
- What kind of food can it find in this habitat?

STEP #3: Create an animal house. Check out baby animal habitats. Find out how different animal parents care for their babies and make "homes" for them. Draw or paint a picture of your favorite animal pair.

STEP #4: Explore endangered habitats. When animals no longer have their habitat, they have to adapt to a new place to live. Some animals can't change, and end up becoming endangered. Answer the questions about the Arctic Circle, the Gulf of Mexico, or the Amazon Rainforest.

- Why is it in danger?
- What is happening to the animals?
- What are people doing to help the habitat?
- Are the animals able to adapt?
- What can we do to help the habitat and the animals that live there?

STEP #5: (EXTENSION): Create a backyard habitat.



ANIMAL HABITATS

WELCOME TO THE COLUMBUS ZOO AND AQUARIUM!

Today your journey will take you around the Asia Quest and North America regions. We recommend you start in Asia Quest and then head over to North America.



STEP #2: Visit the Zoo or animal sanctuary and investigate animal habitats.

Today you will explore Asia Quest and the many animals that can be found living in the forests of Asia. Be sure to stop at the sloth bear, silvered langur, giant flying fox, Asian elephant and Amur tiger habitats. Some of these animals are found inside buildings and some are located outside, so be sure to check all these areas!

Take ten minutes to observe each of the five animals in their habitats. Fill out the chart on the next page for each animal that you observed. After you have filled out your chart, take a moment and share what you observed with your parents or Girl Scout leader.



In what country or region is the animal naturally found in?

What adaptations does this animal have to survive in its habitat?
(Camouflaged fur, thick skin, claws, sharp teeth, etc.)

How do you think this animal stays clean?
(Grooming, bathing, dust bath, etc.)

How does it get around in this habitat?

What kind of food can it find in this habitat?

GIANT FLYING FOX

SILVERED LANGUR

SLOTH BEAR

ASIAN ELEPHANT

AMUR TIGER





ANIMAL HABITATS

STEP #1:

Before you come to the Zoo, take fifteen minutes to observe a pet or domesticated animal at home. Remember you will need to compare the pet or domesticated animal that you observed to a wild animal at the Zoo. If you choose to observe a pet cat, then you will observe and compare it to the bobcats or cougars at the Zoo. If you observe a pet dog, then you will observe and compare it to the Mexican wolves at the Zoo. (Other examples: Horse → Moose or Pronghorn; Cow → Bison)

Travel to the North America region and find the wild animal that you need to observe. Take fifteen minutes to observe the wild animal. Then fill out the chart below to compare and contrast the behaviors that you observed from the pet or domesticated animal and the wild animal at the Zoo. Write your observations in the chart below.



Pet or Domestic Animal:

Zoo Animal:

What were the animals doing while you observed them?		
If you observed them eating, what were they eating? How did they eat?		
How did they move?		
How did they sleep or rest?		



ANIMAL HABITATS

STEP #1 CONTINUED: COMPARING ANIMALS

What behaviors did the animals from the previous activity (pg.5) share?

What behaviors are different between the animals from the previous activity?

STEP #3:

Animals care for their babies in many different ways. Some animals build large nests or dig elaborate tunnels, while others work together as a troop or pack to care for their babies. You have seen many animals on your adventure today, but take a moment to choose your favorite animal parents. How do you think they would care for their young? Draw a picture in the box below that shows what kind of shelter those parents build to care for their young.





ANIMAL HABITATS

STEP #4: Animals all over the world are becoming endangered and are at serious risk of extinction because of changes to their natural habitat. This is happening to the animals that call the Arctic Circle home. Travel to Polar Frontier. Once there, enter the Battelle Ice Bear Outpost building and investigate what is happening to the Arctic Circle. Pay attention to how those changes affect animals like polar bears. Then answer the questions below.

Why is the Arctic Circle in danger?

What is happening to the polar bears?

What are people doing to help the Arctic Circle?

What can we do to help the Arctic Circle and the animals that live there?

How would polar bears have to change to adapt to the changing climate?



STEP #5: Finish your badge at home!
Create an animal habitat in your own backyard. There are so many resources on how to make your yard a healthy home for wildlife. The United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service is a great place to start. Ask your parent to help you log on to www.nrcs.usda.gov to begin. Send us some pictures of your backyard habitat to: scouts@columbuszoo.org