

Porcupine Girl Scout Patch: Our Local Wildlife!



REQUIREMENTS:

Complete the three starred (*) activities AND

Daisies add 1 activity

Brownies add 2 activities

Juniors add 3 activities

Girl Scouts 11+ add 4 activities

DISCOVER:

_____ *All About the Bosque.* Learn about Albuquerque's Bosque Ecosystem and answer as many questions as you can. What does the word "bosque" mean, and what language does it come from? What kind of ecosystem is our bosque? What is the most *populous* tree in the bosque? Where do plants and animals in the bosque get their water?

_____ *Bosque Wildlife.* Learn about the different kinds of animals that live in the bosque habitat. Name at least one bird, one mammal, one amphibian, one reptile and one fish that make the bosque their home. Pick one animal and answer the following questions: What does this animal eat? Is it an omnivore, herbivore or carnivore? Is it nocturnal or diurnal?

_____ * *Wildlife near you.* Visit the ABQ BioPark Tingley Beach and head into the bosque with a guide to look for animal evidence. What are some of the clues that animals leave behind? Look for tracks, scat and other animal evidence. Make a sketch of something you find and write down 2-3 things you've learned by examining the evidence (ex: "this animal has fur in its scat; it must eat other animals!"). Listen, and see if you can hear any animal sounds, write down what you've heard.

CONNECT:

_____ *Animal Adaptations.* Adaptations are things that plants and animals have developed over a very long period of time that help them survive. Choose one bosque animal and make a list of its adaptations: Questions to ask yourself when looking for adaptation: Are its teeth sharp or flat? What does it eat? What color is it? Can it camouflage, or blend in? What sound does it make? If I were to pet this animal, what would it feel like? How big are its eyes? What else does this animal do to protect itself?

_____ *Waterfowl.* Head over to Tingley Beach and check out some of the birds that live on the ponds. Try to identify as many bird species as you can by using binoculars and a bird guidebook. Make a list of all of the kinds that you've seen. Get in a group and discuss your findings. What did you notice about some of these water birds? Which were the largest? Which were the smallest? Which were the most flashy and colorful?

_____ * *Makin' Tracks.* Imagine that you're a bosque animal. After having examined at least three animal tracks design your own imaginary footprint. Think about these questions as you scrawl your track in the sand: how heavy is your animal? Does it stomp or almost float? Does it have claws? Toes? Flippers? How big is it? How fast does it move? After you've finished, pretend that you are a tracker and examine the tracks your friends have designed. See if you can answer the same questions just by looking at the evidence.

_____ *Plant Life.* Head into the bosque with a guide and identify **two trees** and at least **three other plants**. In your group compare the two kinds of trees through an observation discussion: what shape are the leaves? How does the bark look and feel? Is there a difference in height between the two trees? How does each species spread seeds and germinate?

TAKE ACTION:



_____ * *Pollution Patrol.* Did you notice any trash today? Despite their many awesome adaptations, animals aren't equipped to deal with our refuse! Do a 20-minute trash pickup and help out the beach or the bosque. Don't pick up anything dangerous, and wear gloves or wash your hands when you're all done, and be sure to throw the extra fishing line you find in the blue fishing line recycle tubes!

_____ *Campaign for change!* Some species, like the Silvery Minnow are endangered. Learn about a local animal or plant and what you can do to help it survive. Make posters, campaign songs and other props. Then host a parade or community meeting to raise awareness about your chosen species.

PATCHES ARE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE AT THE GIRL SCOUT SHOP, LA TIENDA, FOR \$2.00 EACH.