

Activity 1: As Girls Arrive

Time Allotment

5 minutes

Materials

- Large-size poster board
- Crayons and markers

Steps

As girls arrive, have girls draw a bug they would want to be on the poster board.

SAY:

On the poster board, draw a bug you would like to be. Maybe it's an ant because you'd want to live in a colony with lots of other ants? Or a grasshopper because you like the idea of being outdoors and jumping? How about a caterpillar because you know you'll turn into a butterfly? Maybe you think bees have a fun life buzzing from flower to flower!

Activity 2: Opening Ceremony

Time Allotment

5 minutes

Materials

- PDF of Girl Scout Promise and Law
- Poster board with girls' bug drawings

Steps

Gather girls in a circle. Welcome them to the first Bugs meeting.

Girls say the Girl Scout Promise and the Girl Scout Law together.

SAY:

*Ready to have more fun with our creepy-crawly time exploring bugs?
When you arrived, you drew a bug you'd want to be. Show us what you drew and tell us why you want to be it.*

Activity 3: I Spy a Bug

Time Allotment

20 minutes

Materials

Steps

While outdoors, girls find a bug (or two) that they want to observe

SAY:

*Before you observe a bug for your bug box, look for three different bugs. Write down or draw what you found.
They could be an ant carrying food, a beetle chewing on a leaf, or ants on an ant trail.
When you find 3, let me know. Make sure to use a magnifying glass if you need to get a closer*

look!

[Girls can come to volunteer one by one to report their findings. Find out what bug girl will want for her bug box. Ask her...]

What 3 kinds of bugs did you see?

What was each bug doing?

Where do you think it lives?

What do you think it eats?

Activity 4: Bugs in Action

Time Allotment

20 minutes

Materials

Bug box from last meeting

Magnifying glass, more than one for girls to share

Steps

Girls study a bug of their own.

SAY:

Now that you've observed a few different kinds of bugs, pick one or two for your bug box. Be gentle when putting them in your bug box so they don't get hurt.

You will have 10 minutes to observe your bugs. Make sure to use the magnifying glass to get a closer look!

[Give girls 10 minutes with their bugs...then]

When you're done, carefully place the bugs back where you found them.

Describe the bug or bugs you had in your bug box.

What did you like best about your bug?

Did your bug do anything special while in your box?

Where does your bug live?

Did your bug move fast or slow?

Activity 5: Bug Snack Break

Time Allotment

10 minutes

Materials

A selection of cut-up fruit– apples, pears, strawberries, raspberries, nectarines, melons, plums

Almonds

Honey to dip the fruit

Apple juice or water

Steps

While girls are outdoors, take a snack break and talk about how bugs are connected to the food we eat.

SAY:

You are eating yummy fruits dipped in honey. Did you know that insects helped produce these very snacks you're eating?

How? Insects help plants make seeds. They take the pollen between flowering plants of the same type. The pollen helps make seeds for the plants. These seeds grow into the very things you're eating right now!

To make honey, bees use a feeding tube in their mouths to get nectar—sweet liquid—in flowers. They also eat the flower pollen, which is a yellow grain powder inside the flower. They take the nectar and pollen back to their bee hives to store and that's what becomes honey!

Birds, bats, and the wind can also take pollen between plants. Pollination is really important if we want to have plants for food, clothing, and shelter.

Activity 6: Pollinator Hunt

Time Allotment

15 minutes

Materials

Pollinator checklist, one for each girl

Paper for each girl

Pens and pencils

Steps

Take girls to area where there are a lot of plants and flowers. Could be a garden, nursery, farm, or backyard. Have girls look for pollinators.

SAY:

Now you know that it is important for insects to pollinate.

[Give girls pollinator list and have them check off what they find.]

You have a pollinator checklist that lists insects that pollinate.

Right now, go on a brief hunt for some of these pollinators. Make sure to look and not bother, touch or pick the insects, plants or flowers.

[When girls are done]

What did you find?

*Does anyone know what **Take Action** means? It's something you do as a Girl Scout to help others. It can also mean helping the environment! By protecting pollinators and insects, you are helping the environment.*

Take a minute to draw a garden that insects and birds will be able to pollinate. What will it have?

Lots of colorful flowers?

Shelter for the plants and flowers?

Water for the plants and flowers?

Activity 7: Closing Ceremony

Time Allotment

10 minutes

Materials

Steps

Girls sit in a circle to share one thing they learned about bugs.

SAY:

Let's go around the circle and share one thing you learned about bugs.

[When girls are done...]

Can you believe that there's actually a job for someone who studies bugs all day? They are called entomologists.

One entomologist is Betty Faber. Her friends call her "Betty Bug" because she spends most of her time studying cockroaches. When Betty was a girl, she was afraid of flying cockroaches but that fear turned into curiosity. Now Betty is finding out how cockroaches have survived more than 250 million years!

Does being a bug scientist sound like something you might want to do?

Thank you for being brave insect explorers and for taking care of your environment.

Congratulations on earning your Bugs badge!

Ask a girl to end the ceremony by starting the friendship squeeze.