

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 on the poster board.

SAY:

Draw a bug on the poster board. You'll be sharing your bug board so make it small enough for the others to draw their bugs, too.

Activity 2: Opening Ceremony

Time Allotment

10 minutes

Materials

PDF of Girl Scout Promise and Law
Poster board with girls' bug drawings
Print out of insects

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:

*You're about to have a fun, creepy-crawly time exploring bugs!
Though many people call all insects "bugs," a bug is actually a certain kind of insect. "True bugs" have a mouth shaped like a straw that they use to suck nectar from plants or blood from other insects. (Show printout of insects)
They also have a special type of front wing. In this badge, we call all our insect friends bugs—even those that aren't true bugs.
Do you have a favorite insect?
Show us what you drew on the poster board. What kind of is it?*

Activity 3: Paper-Plate Spider

Time Allotment

20 minutes

Materials

Paper plates, enough for each girl
Markers, crayons
Googly eyes, glue dots, glitter
Black pipe cleaners

Glue stick or tape

Steps

Girls make a spider out of a paper plate.

SAY:

Spiders are related to bugs and insects. They are called arachnids. Other members of their family are scorpions, mites and ticks.

What's the difference between spiders and insects? Spiders have 8 legs, insects have 6. Spiders don't have antennae, insects do.

The biggest spider is called a tarantula. It's big and hairy and is known to kill mice, lizards and birds!

Are spiders dangerous? Sometimes! All spiders have fangs but most are harmless. Two types--the black widow and brown recluse spiders—have poison strong enough to harm humans.

Ready to make a spider?

Decorate a paper plate with markers or paint to look like the body of a spider.

Draw eyes, or make them by attaching googly eyes or covering dots of glue in glitter.

Cut four black pipe cleaners in half to make eight legs and attach them to the plate.

Bend them to make your spider stand!

[After girls are done]

What kind of spider did you make?

How many legs does your spider have?

Do you know how spiders can help your garden grow? (They eat pesty insects that might kill your flowers and plants.)

Why do spiders spin webs? (To help trap insects they can eat for food.)

Activity 4: Caterpillar Crawl

Time Allotment

20 minutes

Materials

None

Steps

Head outdoors with girls to play a caterpillar game. Divide girls into two groups. Have them stand at one end of the yard or outdoor area, with a finish area at the other end.

SAY:

Caterpillars are born very small, eat lots of plants, grow fast, and then turn into butterflies or moths. They only live as caterpillars for about two to four weeks.

Caterpillars have eight pairs of legs—that means 16 legs! And they have 12 eyes. Whoa!

Just like spiders, caterpillars can create a silk web. They use their webs as protection while they're eating and growing.

Ready to turn into a caterpillar?

Divide into two groups, stand one behind the other.

Hold the waist of the girl in front of you.

When I say, "Wiggle," you will run forward while you wiggle, but must stay connected to the finish line. (Point to the finish line, whether it's indoors or outside.)

If your team becomes disconnected, you have to go back to the starting line and start over.

[When girls are done, have them repeat this after you...]

A caterpillar looks so small.

It is hardly there at all.

It munches on green leafy treats,

And it gets bigger as it eats.

It eats and eats, 'til pretty soon,

It wraps up tight in a cocoon.

When it wakes up it blinks its eyes

And says, "I'm now a butterfly!"

Activity 5: Make a Bug Box

Time Allotment

15 minutes

Materials

Cardboard shoe box with a rectangle cut out of one side and taped with plastic wrap to cover opening

Pencils to poke holes in box

Steps

While girls are outdoors, have them make a bug box for their next meeting.

SAY:

You can take a closer look at bugs by making a bug box to observe one. We'll make your box now so you'll have it when we go exploring at our next meeting.

Each of you has a shoebox with one rectangle cut out. That's your window or viewing area.

Remove the lid off your box.

Using a pencil, poke three small breathing holes on both sides of your box. Make sure these are smaller than a bug so they won't get out.

Next, make a home for your bugs! Find materials, like grass, twigs, small leaves, and grass to put on the bottom of your box.

Put the lid back on and write your name on your box. We'll save your bug box for our next meeting where you can add a bug (or two) and observe it!

[Collect bug boxes to hold for next meeting.]

Activity 6: Bug Snack Break

Time Allotment

15 minutes

Materials

Raisins

Apple juice

Graham crackers
Chocolate chips or raisins
Sealable sandwich bags, enough for each girl
Rolling pin
Crackers (like Ritz or saltines)
Peanut butter or nutella (check ahead for allergies; you can also use cream cheese)
Pretzel sticks

Steps

Sprinkle a few raisins in the apple juice and tell girls that it's bug juice. Have them make some fun bug snacks.

SAY:

Ready to make—and eat—some fun bug snacks?

First, let's make ants in the sand.

Put a few graham crackers in your sandwich bag.

Now take the rolling pin and use it to crush the crackers in your bag.

When you're done, open the bags and add raisins (or chocolate chips)—your ants!

Now eat with your hands or a spoon.

Next, let's make cracker bugs.

Smear peanut butter on cracks and close them together like a sandwich.

Insert pretzel sticks between the crackers to form legs.

Add two little dabs of peanut butter to the top cracker and put raisins or chocolate chips for eyes.

Now, munch away on your cracker bug.

Activity 7: Closing Ceremony

Time Allotment

10 minutes

Materials

Lyrics to "Make New Friends"

Steps

Girls sit in a circle to sing "Make New Friends."

SAY:

You know why we sang "Make New Friends"? Because bugs and insects are our friends, too.

We need to treat them with respect and care. What are some ways to do that? (By not stomping or killing insects outdoors. By treating them carefully while you observe them.)

Are there any times when bugs might bug you? (When a bee stings you. When a fly buzzes around your head. When ants crawl on your food. When a tick crawls up your leg.)

Have you ever been bitten by a mosquito or stung by a bee? Tell us about it.

What should you do if a bug bites you? (Tell an adult and they will know what to do.)

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