

## SUMMER BADGE ACTIVITIES ANIMAL HABITATS – Junior

Find out more about where animals live, how they play and how we can help them!

### STEP 1 – FIND OUT ABOUT WILD ANIMALS

Make a skit about the wild animals at a campground. Here are some helpful hints to include in your skits.

#### Tips for Encountering Wild Animals

In addition to learning general respect for animals and their habitats, children and adults should both be aware of some tips and tricks to avoid an animal attack and tips on what to do if a wild animal does attack.

- First, as a precaution, no one should ever hike alone: The buddy system will deter most wild animals from attack, but if attacked, a buddy can run for help.
- Carry a walking stick, and make a lot of noise as you walk. Giving the animals fair warning that you are on your way will keep them from attacking out of surprise, and a walking stick can become a weapon or deterrent.
- Never run from any animal. Wild animals may instinctually attack, and domestic animals may chase and attack in play. Instead, back away slowly.
- Never scream or yell around a wild animal. Loud noises can induce an attack. Remain as quiet as possible if you encounter an agitated wild animal.
- Do not approach wild animals, and if you happen upon them on accident, give them room to escape immediately.
- If you encounter a wild animal and it seems agitated or ready to attack, make yourself appear bigger. Stretch your arms and legs out wide, and if you have a walking stick, extend it in the air. Anything you can do to appear larger will make the animal retreat.

Wherever you live, wild animals share your space, and they deserve our appreciation and respect.

Beautiful, natural and dangerous, wild animals can provide our world with a stunning natural splendor amidst a stunning natural danger, so respecting the animals while understanding how to protect ourselves can best keep humans safe from harm.

### STEP 2 – INVESTIGATE AN ANIMAL HABITAT

A habitat is where the animal lives. Like a beach, jungle or desert. Make a Habitat collage. Cut out or print out 15 to 20 pictures of wild animals by things they all share. Group the animals by habitat. Then group them by how they look, how they move, or how they bear their young. You may want to make up other ways to group the animals. Past your pictures on a poster board that you can hang in your room or maybe at your meeting place.

### STEP 3 – CREATE AN ANIMAL HOUSE

Make a Jello Nest. Insulate your animals' home.

You will need: 1 package of jello. Follow the directions on the label to make the jello.

1. After mixing the jello and before it sets, put part of the liquid into a Ziploc bag. Pour the rest into a mixing bowl.
2. Insulate your "animal" (the Ziploc bag) the way an animal might insulate its nest. You could bury the bag in leaves and sticks in your yard or use materials in your house like socks, or towels to burrow it.
3. Keep the bag in its warm, insulated place while the mixing bowl with the rest of the jello stays out in the air – in the same area as your "nest" container.
4. When the bowl of jello has set (gotten firm) uncover and check your "nest". If it's still liquid you'll know your insulation would have kept the animals inside warm. If it is set, try building your animal nest again.
5. What made your next work? Or not work?

#### STEP 4 – EXPLORE ENDANGERED HABITATS

How do animals adapt to a new place to live? Some animals can't change and end up becoming endangered.

Explore the Arctic Circle –

Why are animals in danger there? What is happening to the animals? What are people doing to help the habitat? Are the animals able to adapt?

These 7 Arctic Animals Are Most at Risk From Climate Change

- Polar Bear
- Arctic Fox
- Beluga Whale
- Narwhal
- Walrus
- Bearded Seal
- Ringed Seal

Can you build a diorama that illustrates a good environment for one of these animals.

#### STEP 5 – HELP PROTECT ANIMAL HABITATS

You can take steps to help protect animals' homes and prevent them from becoming endangered.

Create an endangered animal. You can paint it, sculpt it, paper mache' it, create a full-size scale, whatever you want to do! Using your endangered animal tell a story about where it lives, why it's home is endangered, and how others can help! Find out if there is an organization that protects your habitat.



Bluefin tuna



Galapagos penguin



Maui's dolphin



Antigua racer snake



Sumatran tiger



Amur leopard



Giant panda



African wild dog



Lemur frog