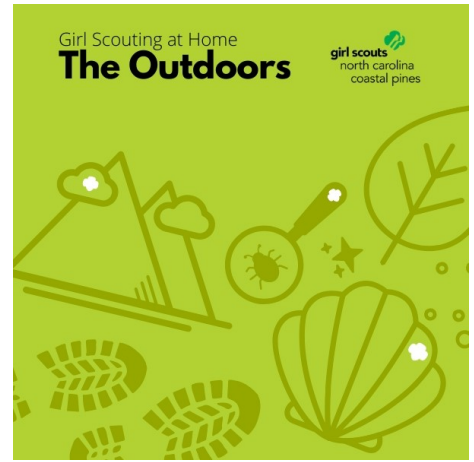


Girl Scouts North Carolina Coastal Pines invites girls, families, and volunteers to stay involved while at home. We know that today's girl is ready to pivot on a moment's notice and is willing to embrace new ways to explore Girl Scouting. That's why we're promoting these options for engaging with us while you're at home today ... or any day!

THE OUTDOORS encourages Girl Scouts to nourish their love of the great outdoors and their connection with nature. Each Thursday, join us to explore and celebrate the beautiful world around us, while developing a lifelong appreciation for nature and the out-of-doors. Join the conversation online. **#OurGSNCCPCommunity**



NC State Parks

Have you ever participated in a Girl Scout activity at one of the North Carolina State Parks? The State Parks love when Girl Scouts come and explore the parks. This week we will be exploring some beautiful flowers and bugs that you can find in our parks. First, find a letter from Sean Higgins the Chief of Education for the North Carolina State Parks.

Dear North Carolina Coastal Pines Girl Scouts,

Many of our North Carolina state park rangers first got interested in nature when they were in scouts! I hope some of you will consider careers in science or parks.

State Parks protect plants and animals. One of the best ways you can help us from home is by learning about plants and animals. Often people do not know how to tell the difference between venomous snakes and the harmless snakes. That causes some people to kill our helpful snakes, like rat snakes and Northern water snakes. By learning to tell the difference, we can protect many of our wild animals that help us by eating mice. The same is true for spiders. Most spiders are harmless. Most spiders are helpful in eating mosquitos and other pests. Sometimes people remove plants that they think are weeds, when those plants may be important food for caterpillars. By learning about nature and sharing with others, you can help us protect plants and animals.

I hope you enjoy time outdoors this summer. Take time to learn as much as you can about the plants and animals that share our Earth.

Sincerely,

Sean Higgins

Chief of Education

North Carolina State Parks

Need a copy of a Journey, badge requirements or want to order patches? While our shops are closed, please feel free to [shop online](#) or [email](#) us for merchandise needs. We will provide free shipping within in our council footprint on orders emailed to us (please provide phone number in email so we can call you for payment details).

Questions? programteam@nccoastaspines.org

www.nccoastaspines.org

Check out this video and then interview a plant.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ecXkKG7GL7g>

Interviewing a Flower

Different flowers are in bloom during the spring, summer, and fall. This exercise allows you to interview a flower to learn what sets it apart from others. This could be used during a hike or to help identify flowers. The most important thing is to get to know the flower through guided observation.

For this activity you will need a paper to make your own field guide.

1. What are the flower's colors?
2. What shapes or patterns does the flower have?
3. How many leaves does it have?
4. How many petals do you see?
5. Does the flower have a single flower, or a grouping? Describe it?
6. Stop and watch the flower for a couple minutes; do you see any bugs approaching it? If so. What is attracting them to it?
7. Get your nose really close to the flower. Can you smell a scent?
8. Are the flower petals open or closed?
9. Do you see Pollen?
10. Do you see the Pistil or the Stamen?
11. If you were to make up a name for your flower what would you call it?
12. Where is it growing? Is it in the woods or in a field? Is your flower in the sun or the shade?

Butterflies and Moths

While you are looking at flowers, you may see some butterflies and moths. Follow the links below to help you identify them!

https://files.nc.gov/ncparks/37/FIELD_ID_SHEET_Common_Butterflies_of_NC.pdf

https://files.nc.gov/ncparks/37/FIELD_ID_SHEET_Common_Moths_of_NC.pdf

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xY-7OtADFgs&feature=youtu.be>

Badges



Did you enjoy learning about flowers and butterflies? Check out some related badges below!

Daisies

- Eco Learner
- Outdoor Art Maker

Cadettes

- Outdoor Art Apprentice
 - Trees

Brownies

- Bugs
- Outdoor Adventurer

Seniors

- Voice For Animals
- Eco Explorer

Juniors

- Animal Habitats
 - Flowers
 - Gardener

Ambassadors

- Eco Advocate

