

Wild Flowers and Plants Junior Badge



To earn this badge, complete 6 of the 10 activities.

1. Create a wild plant and flower notebook using a sketchbook or folder with notebook paper. Record your findings in this book.
2. Go on several walks to see wild plants growing in their native homes. Try searching for plants in different places, such as meadows, forests, hillsides, and along lakes or streams. Identify at least twenty wild plants. Ferns may be included in your selection. Keep a list of the plants you see and try writing your own descriptions. **Do not pick or dig any plant.**
3. Make a close study of five plants. Be able to tell something about their life history by completing a wildflower worksheet telling:
 - Where did you locate the plant? (woods, field, swamp etc.)
 - How high does it grow?
 - Is there a single stem or many coming from the same root?
 - Do leaves grow from the root, at the base of the plant, or along the stem?
 - Describe the leaves. (size, color, shape, smooth or jagged edges etc.)
 - Describe the flower. (color, shape, and number of petals)
 - Is the blossom fragrant?
 - Does the plant bear fruit? If so, is it edible?
 - Sketch and color all five plants.
 - Use a field guide to properly identify each plant.
4. Be able to recognize the poisonous plants in your part of the country: Poison Ivy, Poison Sumac, Poison Oak, and Stinging Nettle. Know how to protect yourself against them and what to do for such poisoning.
5. Learn the Conservation Pledge, **"I give my pledge as an American to save and faithfully defend from waste the natural resources of my country – its soil and minerals, its forests, waters and wildlife."** Find out what plants in your area are in danger of extinction. Are there organizations in your community that are working for the protection of wild plants? What can you or your troop do to help.
6. Tie or tape four 36" long sticks together to make one **square** yard. Place the square on the ground and observe how many different types of plants are growing in that small area.
7. Find several different kinds of seeds and notice how some are prepared to make their way into the world. Milkweed, Dandelion, and Thistle seeds can sail through the air, while Burdock seeds travel by sticking to our clothing.
8. Visit a botanical garden or conservatory to see wild plants uncommon or unknown in your area.
9. Learn about wild plants that are used for medical purposes.
10. Keep a troop chart of all wild plants and flowers found by girls working on this badge. List the name of the plants, date you saw it in bloom, and the place.