



Bees and Pollination

The hum of bees is the voice of the garden.

—Elizabeth Lawrence

Save the bees! But why? Bee-cause pollinators are essential for crop growth in the United States and around the world. Pollinators move pollen among flowers to help fruits and seeds grow! Without pollinators, many of our favorite foods would not be able to grow.

There are more pollinators than just bees like birds, butterflies, moths, beetles, bats, and more!

How to earn the Beekeeping patch the Girl Scout way:

Steps:

1. **Discover**—Learn about local pollinators in your community.
2. **Connect**—Plan a pollinator celebration snack for your friends and family.
3. **Take Action**—Create a pollinator paradise in your yard or community.

Materials Needed:

In order to complete this patch, you'll need:

- Pollinator resources (You can either go online with an adult, ask a professional, or visit your public library.)
- A notebook and writing utensil (See Step 1.)
- Ingredients for a snack (See Step 2.)
- Supplies to create a pollinator paradise (See Step 3.)

Step 1

Learn about your local pollinators.

Pollinators are all around us! Go outside and track how many pollinators and flowers you see in your yard, a local park, or a garden for 15 minutes each day. Keep track for one week. (Remember, pollinators are more than just bees. You might see wasps, flies, mosquitoes, butterflies, moths, beetles, birds, and bats.)

- What type of pollinators did you see?
- What type of plants did those pollinators fly around?
- How do you think you can help pollinators?
- How did the weather impact the pollinators?
- What pollinators came out in the morning? Afternoon? Evening? At night?

Step 2

Plan a pollinator celebration snack.

Celebrate pollinators by planning a special snack featuring the foods they pollinate. Invite your friends and family to join you in your celebration. Pollinator-assisted foods could be: almonds, apples, avocados, bananas, beans, berries, cauliflower, cucumbers, grapes, melons, oranges, peppers, and more. Get creative!

Take it one step further:

- Decorate your snack celebration with placemats of collages made from pictures of pollinators.
- Make pollinator garland to hang from the ceiling.
- Make your own costumes and plan pollinator games.
- Share your pollinator discoveries from Step 1 with your guests



Step 3

Create a pollinator paradise.

Create a pollinator paradise by planting flowers and herbs that attract pollinators, creating a bee bath, or planting a tree. You can create your pollinator paradise in your yard or community park with permission from the appropriate authorities.

- Plant an array of herbs and flowers that attract pollinators. Pollinators are attracted to plants like yarrow, sunflowers, zinnia, salvia, marigold, cosmos, verbenas, nasturtium, lavender, and more!
- Create a bee bath. Put a shallow container of water in your garden so that bees have a place to hydrate. Add some twigs and pebbles to give them a place to land.
- Plant a tree in honor of the pollinators. For more information, check out the Girl Scout Tree Promise (<https://www.girlscouts.org/treepromise>)



All done? CONGRATULATIONS!

You've completed all the necessary steps to earn the Beekeeping patch.

After completing the activities from each step, visit or call a Girl Scouts Western Pennsylvania retail shop at 800-248-3355 to purchase your patch.* A patch may be worn on the back of a vest, sash or tunic.

*Patch shown may be substituted with similar patch, based on availability.