

Girl Scout Badge Programs & Outdoor Field Experiences

Willowsford Conservancy offers hands-on, standards-aligned outdoor field experiences designed to help Girl Scout troops earn badges while building environmental literacy, confidence, and a connection to nature.

Our programs:

- Are led by experienced environmental educators
- Take place on conserved lands including forests, wetlands, ponds, meadows, and streams
- Incorporate inquiry-based learning and outdoor exploration
- Can be adapted by age level, group size, and season
- Emphasize safety, stewardship, and Leave No Trace principles

Programs are designed for half-day or full-day field trips and align with Girl Scout badge requirements.

Daisy Programs

Eco Learner

Daisies explore how to care for the outdoors through guided discovery and simple stewardship practices.

Program Highlights:

- Introduction to Leave No Trace principles
- “Pack Your Bag” readiness discussion (water, snacks, safety items) 4
- Guided nature hike
- Interactive “How Long Does Trash Last” game
- Optional light stewardship activity, such as litter collection

Girls leave understanding how small actions can protect nature.

Animal Observer

Daisies discover different animal habitats and practice observation skills.

Program Highlights:

- Introduction to forest, meadow, and pond habitats
- Guided habitat walk
- Field note activity to record animals and wildlife
- Discussion of how animals depend on their environments

This program builds curiosity and observation skills while encouraging respect for wildlife.

Brownie Programs

Eco Friend

Brownies explore how humans and animals share outdoor spaces and how to protect them.

Program Highlights:

- Guided hike
- Discussion of animal homes such as beaver dams, bird nests, and bluebird boxes
- Hands-on stewardship activity (seasonally dependent), such as:
 - Native planting support
 - Light Cleanup project
 - Greenhouse-based activity
- Campfire safety basics (discussion and demonstration as appropriate)

Girls learn practical ways to be environmental helpers in their own communities.

Hiking

Brownies build outdoor confidence while learning safe and responsible hiking practices.

Program Highlights:

- Trail hike
- Leave No Trace principles
- Preparation skills (packing essentials, hydration, safety awareness)
- Interactive environmental impact activity

Bugs

Brownies investigate insects and aquatic macroinvertebrates and learn how small creatures play a big role in the ecosystem.

Program Highlights:

- Macroinvertebrate observation session
- Introduction to stream habitats and aquatic life
- Discussion of how macroinvertebrates indicate water quality
- Counting and identifying different types
- Creative art activity inspired by macroinvertebrates

This program introduces ecological science in an engaging, hands-on format.

Junior Programs

Animal Habitats

Juniors explore ecosystems in greater depth and examine how animals adapt to survive.

Program Highlights:

- Habitat-based hike (vernal pools, ponds, forests, or meadows, depending on season)
- Exploration of species found in each habitat
- Discussion of endangered species relevant to our region, such as the Northern Long-eared Bat
- Interactive ecological game illustrating habitat loss and resource competition

Girls gain a deeper understanding of biodiversity and conservation challenges.

Flowers

Juniors investigate native plants and their ecological importance.

Program Highlights:

- Meadow exploration
- Identification of flower parts using magnifying tools
- Discussion of pollination and plant benefits
- Nature-inspired art project

This program blends science, creativity, and appreciation for native ecosystems.

Cadette Programs

Eco Explorer

Seniors participate in authentic environmental monitoring experiences.

Program Highlights

- Stream-based macroinvertebrate water quality monitoring session
- Introduction to scientific sampling methods
- Discussion of how biological indicators reflect environmental health
- Conferences about human impact and conservation strategies

Why Partner With Us

Our organization provides:

- Experienced environmental educators
- Access to diverse outdoor learning spaces
- Age-appropriate curriculum aligned with Girl Scout badge requirements
- Meaningful stewardship opportunities

We are committed to fostering environmental literacy, leadership skills, and a lifelong connection to the outdoors.