

GIRL SCOUT INTEREST PROJECT AWARD

Adapted with permission from Columbia River GSC, Oregon 2/2006
Columbia River Council • Lake Oswego, Oregon



Zoological IPA

Our Own Troop/Group Interest Project

To earn this Interest Project, complete at least SEVEN activities as follows: two Skill Builders, one Technology Activity, one Service Project Activity, one Career Exploration Activity, and two activities from any category you choose.

Skill Builders

1. Learn about states or countries with endangered animals. Explore the political and social issues surrounding the native plants and animals and what the government and the people who live there are doing to deal with these issues.
2. Learn about advances in zoo building and animal care. Draw a diagram depicting what you think would be the perfect zoo in terms of layout, design, structure etc.
3. Learn about the rainforest. Find out about pharmaceuticals that come from that area and other products that humans use that are made from plants and animals present in the rainforest. Learn about human issues such as destruction of habitat and any conservation projects that are taking place in the rainforest.
4. Learn about the World Bank and how it is involved in conservation projects all over the world. Create a news report that would present this information to the public in a manner that everyone could understand.
5. Explore careers in ecotourism. Learn what types of issues are facing professionals in this field and how they are working to resolve those problems. Plan an ecotourism vacation trip for someone you know that would address the information you have just learned.

Technology

1. Go to <http://nationalzoo.si.edu/> to learn about conservation and research projects administered by the National Zoo. Or, go to a federal, state, or county park web site to learn what is happening in your area with conservation projects.
2. Explore scientific advancements in captive animal reproduction related to endangered species.
3. Read a scientific journal article related to endangered species. Present this information in an understandable format to a younger group of Girl Scouts.
4. Learn about new species' discoveries from journals, newspapers, or web sites. Write a journal article that could be presented in the local paper highlighting your discoveries.

Career Exploration

1. Explore careers in biology, zoology etc. Learn what types of education and work experience are needed to be a zoological professional.
2. Talk to the Human Resources department or volunteers at the National Zoo. Find out the various types of jobs available at the zoo and what skills are needed to get those jobs.
3. Interview a Zookeeper or another zoo employee about his/her job or responsibilities. Find out what education is required to become a Zookeeper.
4. Go online and research veterinary schools in the US. What does it take to be accepted to veterinary school? How many veterinary schools are in the US? How long does it take to become a licensed veterinarian?
5. Interview someone in an animal/wildlife career. This person can be a veterinarian, zoo staff or humane society staff to name just a few! Ask about this person's education, job history, what they like/dislike about their job, what the hardest part of their job is, etc.
6. Interview someone with a career in conservation. Learn about what their day-to-day job is and what issues they face.

Service Projects

1. Become a FONZ at the National Zoo. [Join online](#) and save paper. Join at any Information Booth, Parking Lot Booth, or Gift Shop on your next visit to the Zoo.
2. Sponsor your favorite animal for a year and contribute to its quality of life.

3. Volunteer for the National Zoo or support the National Zoo through their various teen programs. There are many programs associated with the National Zoo which help to support their needs. Call the National Zoo, 202.673.7800 or visit on line at <http://nationalzoo.si.edu> for more information.

4. Learn about the Nature Conservancy. Use books, magazine, pamphlets, newspaper articles and interviews to learn what the organization does, where it gets its funding, what projects they are working on, and what types of animals they work to protect. Consider volunteering at the Nature Conservancy. There are many volunteer opportunities in the local area that work with the Conservancy. Go on line at www.nature.org to find out about their volunteer programs for your state.

5. ♣ Help protect wildlife and the environment—**bring your used cell phone to the Zoo's Visitor Center** and drop it in the collection box at the front desk. Encourage your family, friends, and neighbors to drop off their phones at the Zoo, too. <http://nationalzoo.si.edu/Visit/Eco-Cell.cfm>

Resources:

Just about any zoo has animals and resources.

Smithsonian National Zoological Park: <http://nationalzoo.si.edu/default.cfm>



<http://www.nature.org/>

The Nature Conservancy in Maryland/District of Columbia - Places We Protect
<http://nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/maryland/preserves/>

The Nature Conservancy in the United States - Nature and Conservation
<http://nature.org/wherewework/northamerica/states/>

Calvert County, MD Battle Creek Cypress Swamp - <http://calvert-county.com/cypress.htm> or <http://www.dnr.state.md.us/baylinks/13.html> or <http://www.calvertparks.org/swamp.htm>

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Get Green - National Wildlife Federation
<http://www.nwf.org/getgreen/NewYearResolutions.cfm>

National Wildlife Federation – electronic field guides
<http://www.enature.com/home/>