



# SCOUTS NEWSLETTER

## MONTHLY BADGE-EARNING ACTIVITIES

AUGUST 2020 • ISSUE 2

## SCAVENGER HUNT

HOLLY BALASSI

Scavenger hunts are a fun group activity that challenge us to think outside the box and focus on things that we may overlook. The same can be said for nature scavenger hunts. Looking for parts of nature based on certain characteristics encourages us to exercise perception while learning about the nature around us every day.

### THIS MONTH'S ACTIVITIES:

Scavenger Hunt

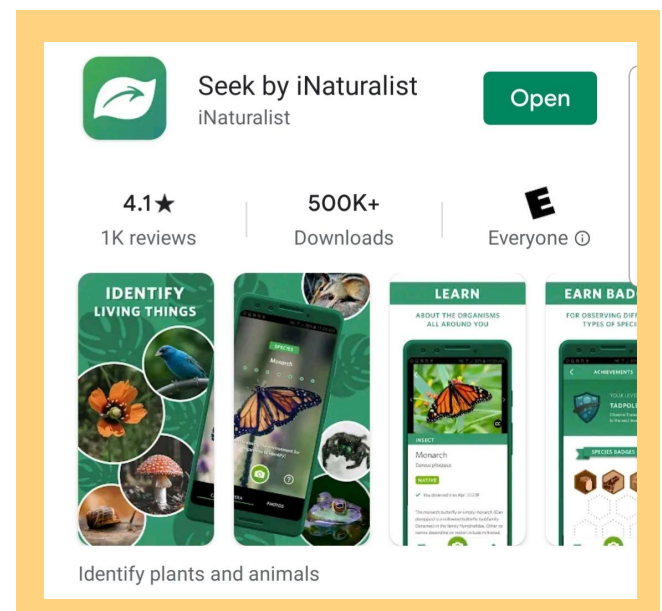
Bird Watching

### Here's what you need for this activity:

- A list of objects to find in nature, based on texture, color, or characteristics
- Pen/pencil
- Binoculars
- Magnifying glass
- Specimen container
- Smartphone (Free Seek app)



***find a plant, insect, or animal in nature that is orange***





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### Here's what you do:

- Make a scavenger hunt list of plants, animals, or insects in nature that can be identified by color, texture, or characteristics. (ex: Find a plant, animal, or insect in nature that is purple)
- If you want to make the scavenger hunt more challenging, try a riddle scavenger hunt. (See example riddle below)
- Grab some binoculars, a magnifying glass and a specimen container
- Optional: If you have access to a phone, download the Seek app. It is a free application on your phone's App Store that helps you identify many aspects of nature (reptiles, plants, trees, fungi, and more).
- Head outside and follow the instructions on your scavenger hunt list
- Once you have found an object that matches the scavenger hunt instructions, identify what the object is (Ex: a three-toed box turtle or a firefly)
- Identify what feature of the object matches the scavenger hunt requirements (Ex: The three-toed box turtle has a hard shell. or the firefly is orange)
- If you catch a specimen for observation, make sure you release it where you found it after observing it
- HAVE FUN!



three-toed box turtle  
hatchling

***find and plant, animal, or insect in  
nature that has a hard shell***

### **This activity can go towards the following badges:**

- Mammal Study Merit Badge
- Bird Study Merit Badge
- Invertebrate Study Merit Badge
- Reptile and Amphibian Study Merit Badge
- Forestry Merit Badge
- Nature Study Merit Badge
- Brownie-Hiker Badge
- Bugs
- Senses
- Junior-Flowers
- Cadette-Trees

**A very pretty thing am I,  
Fluttering in the pale-blue sky.  
Delicate, fragile on the wing,  
Indeed, I am a pretty thing.  
What am I?**

**Your answer: \_\_\_\_\_**

***create a riddle scavenger hunt***



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### BIRD WATCHING

AISHA MUHAMMAD

Birding can be both a relaxing and exciting experience. One moment you may see a mallard duck gently gliding across a pond, and in the next instant, you could spot the large eagle swooping down to catch a fish! There are many birds that live in and pass through Missouri. Through bird watching, we can get a first hand look at all of their marvelous feats and silly quirks.



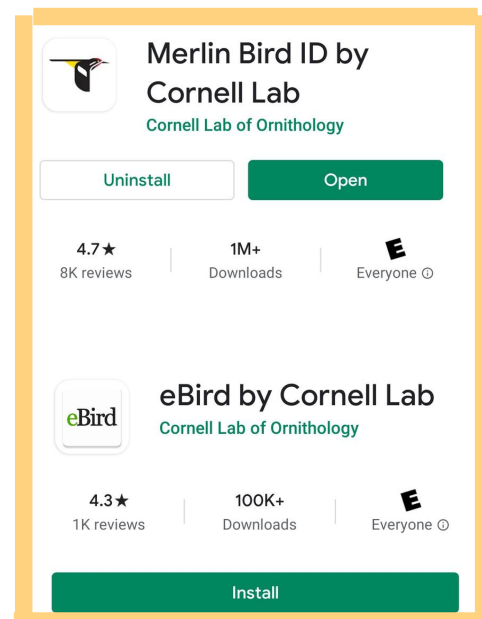
great egret



indigo bunting

### Here's what you need for this activity:

- Binoculars
- Smart-phone
- Merlin app - a FREE bird identification app
- eBird app - a FREE bird cataloging app
- A bird identification field guide book
- A sense of adventure







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### Here's what you do:

- Go to a place in nature where you can see lots of birds. Birds are the most active in the morning, so that will usually be the best time to go out and look for them
- When you find a bird, use your binoculars to get a closer look
- If you can't identify the bird right away, take note of what you saw (color, pattern, size, habitat, etc.)
- Next, you can use a bird field guide book or the Merlin app to help you identify the bird and learn more about it
- The Merlin app will ask about the bird's color, it's size, what it was doing, and where you saw it. You can also take a picture of the bird and upload the photo to the app.
- The app will then provide a list of birds you might have seen. When you find the bird you think you saw, click: "This is my bird"
- From here, the app will give you information to learn more about the bird, it's bird songs, and how it lives
- At this point, you've successfully identified your bird and have embarked on the wonderful journey of birding
- Feel free to keep track of the birds you've identified in a journal or on the eBird app



**ruby-throated  
hummingbird**

### This activity can go towards the following badges:

- Bird Study Merit Badge
- Nature Study Merit Badge
- Junior Animal Habitat Badge
- Brownie Senses Badge
- Cadette-Animal Helpers Badge
- Fish and Wildlife Management Merit Badge



**female mallard duck**