



SCOUTS NEWSLETTER

MONTHLY BADGE-EARNING ACTIVITIES

JULY 2020 • ISSUE 1

THIS MONTH'S ACTIVITIES:

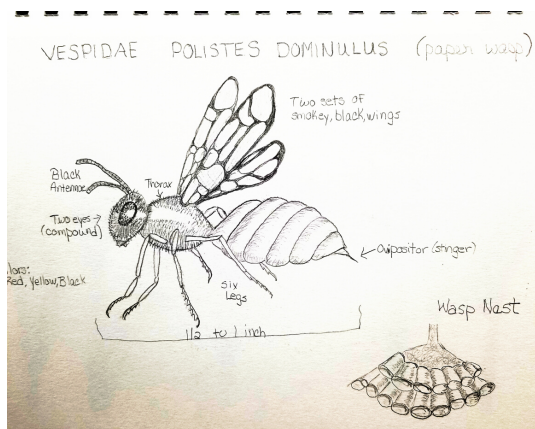
Nature Journaling

Native Plant Gardening

NATURE JOURNALING

BY HOLLY BALASSI

Nature journaling is a great way to really become aware of nature and to really notice your surroundings. Anyone can learn to nature journal and it can possibly turn into an enjoyable, lifelong hobby.



Here's what you need for this activity:

- A sketch book (does not have to be a fancy journal, just a blank paged notebook)
- A pen and/or pencil/water colors/colored pencils/crayons (whatever you feel most comfortable using)
- Eraser (trust me, you will be erasing a lot)
- Camera
- NATURE!

This activity can go towards the following badges:

- Girl Scout Junior Scribe Badge
- Girl Scout Junior Drawing Badge
- Girl Scout Brownie Hiker Badge
- Girl Scout Junior Animal Habitats Badge
- Girl Scout Cadette Trees Badge
- Boy Scout Art Merit Badge
- Boy Scout Backpacking Merit Badge
- Boy Scout Bird Study Merit Badge
- Boy Scout Environmental Science Merit Badge
- Boy Scout Reptile and Amphibian Merit Badge
- Boy Scout Photography Merit Badge
- Boy Scout Nature Merit Badge
- Boy Scout Mammal Study Badge
- Boy Scout Insect Study Merit Badge
- Boy Scout Hiking Merit Badge
- Boy Scout Forestry Merit Badge





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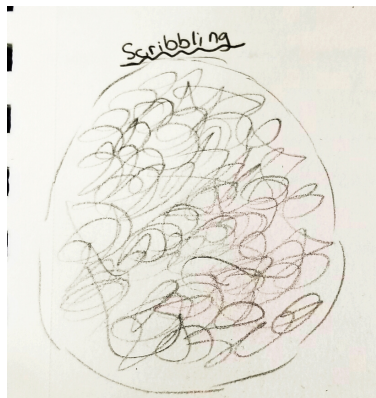
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Here's what you do:

- Gather all of the supplies listed above
- Go outside
- Find a spot to journal, whether that be a quiet space in your backyard, the woods behind your house, or at a park under a tree
- Take out your sketch book and record the date, time, and your location
- Find an object to focus your attention on, whether that be an animal, a plant, a tree, etc.
- Take a picture of the object you want to sketch, or attempt to sketch the object live (I would suggest both, It will help tremendously in the sketching process, especially if it is a moving object you are sketching)
- Sketch the object the best you can
- Jot down some notes about what intrigues you about the object you are sketching
- Have fun with it, this journal is for you

A few suggestions for sketching:

1. When sketching use light, short strokes of your pencil. That way, if you sketch something you don't like, you can sketch over it, or around it, and erase the part you don't like later.
2. The eraser is your best friend. Using an eraser does not mean you are failing to sketch the perfect picture, it means you are sculpting the perfect picture. So, erase to your heart's content.
3. Try the following shading techniques pictured below for sketching: scribbling and blending. These techniques will help create a more realistic picture.
4. Use colored pencils, crayons, water colors, etc., to add more color to the object you are sketching.
5. HAVE FUN!





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NATIVE PLANT GARDENING

BY AISHA MUHAMMAD

Planting native flora in your home garden can be very helpful for the pollinators in your area! There are many Missouri plants that will brighten up any lawn or small porch pot and bring happiness to the critters around you. Before starting your garden, it may be a good idea to go into nature or a park to see if you can find some native plants. Figuring out what plants attract certain pollinators, such as common milkweed for monarch butterflies, will also give your garden an extra oomph of helpfulness!



Common Milkweed



Butterfly Milkweed

This activity can go towards the following badges:

- **Daisy Rosie Petal**
- **Daisy Sunny Petal**
- **Girl Scouts Junior Flower Badge**
- **Boy Scouts Nature Merit Badge**
- **Boy Scouts Plant Science Merit Badge**



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Here's what you need for this activity:

- Gardening gloves
- Gardening shovel
- Hand rake
- Native plant seeds
- A plant pot and soil or a lawn
- Watering can
- Something to label, stake, or mark the spot where you've planted your seed (ex: popsicle sticks)



Black Eyed Susan

Some Tips for Native Gardening:

- Find your native plant seeds at grownative.org
- Avoid hybrid varieties of native plants, such as native plants modified to be unnatural colors - many pollinators don't enjoy these flowers



Wild Bergamot

Here's what you do:

- Find a sunny spot to begin your gardening
- Use your hand rake to loosen the soil, try to remove any rocks, sticks, or roots
- Place your seed in the soil at the depth recommended on your seed package
- Cover your seed with soil, and then lightly water or mist the area to set the seed snugly in place
- Label a popsicle stick of what plant the seed will grow into, and place it near the area it was planted
- Over time, and with proper care, you will see your beautiful native plant grow! Soon enough, you'll see pollinators stopping by who will be thankful for all your kind work.