

The nighttime world is different. Familiar sights and sounds you're used to by day may be scary in the dark. What kinds of animals are out there and why are they so noisy at night? What else is out there? Explore the nighttime world and get comfortable in the dark. Complete the following five steps by doing one activity from each step. Please check badge availability at [here](#) before beginning activities.

### Steps

1. Learn about nocturnal animals
2. Look for nighttime sights
3. Go on a nighttime adventure
4. Explore in the dark

### Purpose:

When I've earned this badge, I will have gained practical life skills, which will help me be safe and enjoy the sights and sounds at night.

### Before you start:

- Bring an adult
- Check the weather forecast and dress appropriately
- Bring a flashlight
- Adults - consult and follow Safety Activity Checkpoints



### Step 1: Learn about nocturnal animals

#### CHOICES – DO AT LEAST ONE

- What is a nocturnal animal? Explain how they differ from other animals and when they come out.
- Name five nocturnal animals. What does each of them eat? Do any of them live near us?
- Learn a nocturnal animal song. (See next sheet)

### Step 2: Listen for nighttime sounds

#### CHOICES – DO AT LEAST ONE

- Go outside at night and sit quietly. Listen to the sounds at night. What do you hear?
- Try to identify one sound made by an insect. Do you know what insect made this sound?
- Try to identify a sound made by another animal such as a bird, frog or raccoon. Do you know what is making this sound?
- Try to identify a sound that is not made by an animal. Do you hear the wind in the trees? Or maybe something man-made? What else do you hear?

### Step 3: Look for nighttime sights

#### CHOICES – DO AT LEAST ONE

- Some plants and flowers bloom only at night. Try to spot one of these night-bloomers.
- Nocturnal animals are hard to find in the daytime. Sit or walk quietly and watch for one of these elusive animals.
- Look up! What do you see in the sky? Identify one constellation or look for the moon.

## **Step 4: Go on a nighttime adventure**

### **CHOICES – DO AT LEAST ONE**

- Take a trip outside at night with your troop or family. Stay outside away from city lights and sounds for at least a few hours.
- Have a nighttime picnic or campfire and share a meal outdoors.
- Camp overnight at a Girl Scout camp or state park

## **Step 5: Explore in the dark**

### **CHOICES – DO AT LEAST ONE**

- Take a night hike to learn more about nocturnal animals. Make a list of animals you may see and hear on the hike. What do you need to take with you on a hike?
- Learn more about the night sky by having a star-gazing party. Ask someone to help you find out more about the phases of the moon, constellations, or planets you can see at night.
- Participate in a nighttime nature walk or scavenger hunt.