

September
Patch of the Month

Girl Scouts Love State Parks



Girl Scouts Love State Parks is celebrated on the weekend of September 12-14 by Girl Scouts across the country. Experience the great outdoors with your friends and family!

Girl Scouts Love State Parks Patch Packet

September 12–14, 2025

Girl Scouts Love State Parks is a national initiative to connect Girl Scouts with their local state parks. Girl Scouts of Kentuckiana would like to encourage you to enjoy some time outside at a state park during this weekend.

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For questions email jgarner@gskentuckiana.org

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About Patch of the Month

Looking for some additional fun activities for your troop or just to do on your own? Each month, girls can discover, connect, and Take Action in a specific subject area. Hands-on activities are available for all Girl Scout levels and can be done at meetings, as a pre-meeting activity, or as an at-home project.

Patch of the Month programs provide Girl Scouts an opportunity to enjoy a variety of activities while earning a fun patch. Patch programs are available to Girl Scouts of all grade levels. Completing patch programs can help complete a Journey and may satisfy requirements for certain badges. It's not necessary to complete the patch programs in the months specified—they can be completed at any time! All fun patches are placed on the back of the vest or sash.

Patch of the Month Evaluation

Once you have completed the program activities, please be sure to fill out the [Patch of the Month Evaluation](#).

How to Order Patches

Visit the GSUSA Shop website to purchase your patch for \$2.00 each!

Scan below to purchase the patch or visit bit.ly/3UKcVYO.





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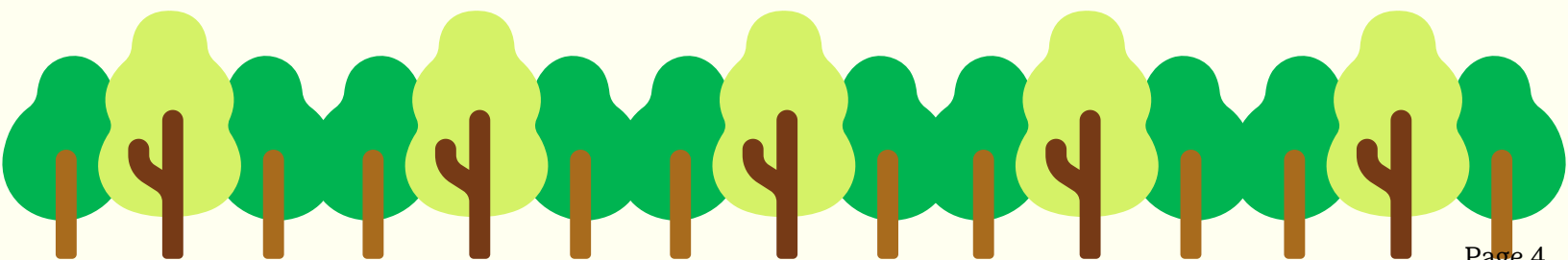
Girl Scouts love the outdoors, including state parks. Join us in celebrating Girl Scouts Love State Parks weekend September 12-14 and earn a colorful new patch for participating in one or more scenic events!

Girl Scout councils across the country have partnered with their local state parks to plan a weekend full of fun activities in the parks or virtually.* These activities will showcase the parks' unique beauty and reflect Girl Scouts' passion for the great outdoors.

Girl Scouts and their families and friends are all welcome to join in the fun at Kentucky and Indiana State Parks. And there's more! Girls can virtually tour parks nationwide using our interactive map. Visit the Girl Scouts Love State Parks website for more information:

www.girlscouts.org/lovestateparks.

In this packet, you will find fun things to do to celebrate Girl Scouts Love State Parks in Kentucky and Indiana. You can also find an activity passport to guide your adventures and learn how to pledge to clean up the parks through Pick Up America.



Girl Scouts Love State Parks 2025

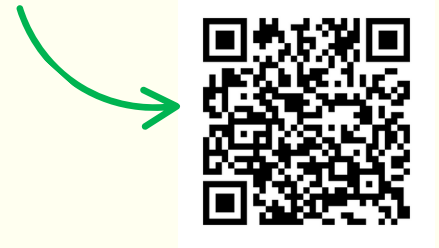


Directions:

Participate in a Girl Scouts Love State Parks program and share what you did by posting photos on the [GSK Facebook Page](https://www.facebook.com/GSKentuckiana/) at www.facebook.com/GSKentuckiana/.

Visit the Girl Scout Shop website to purchase the patch for \$2.00 each by scanning the QR code to the side. (Please note that the Girl Scouts of Kentuckiana shop will not carry this month's patch.)

Scan her to purchase the patch
or visit bit.ly/3UKcVYQ



Girl Scouts Love Kentucky State Parks

Join us for a mix of activities to celebrate Girl Scouts Love State Parks September 12–14, 2025.

This year's theme is safety! Explore the outdoors responsibly, considering cooler times of the day, seeking shaded areas to stay cool, and packing sunscreen, hats, and extra water.

Interested in creating your own Kentucky State Park adventure this year? Print the Discover, Connect, and Take Action booklet and visit any Kentucky State Park to celebrate Girl Scouts Love State Parks weekend!

Girl Scouts Love Indiana State Parks

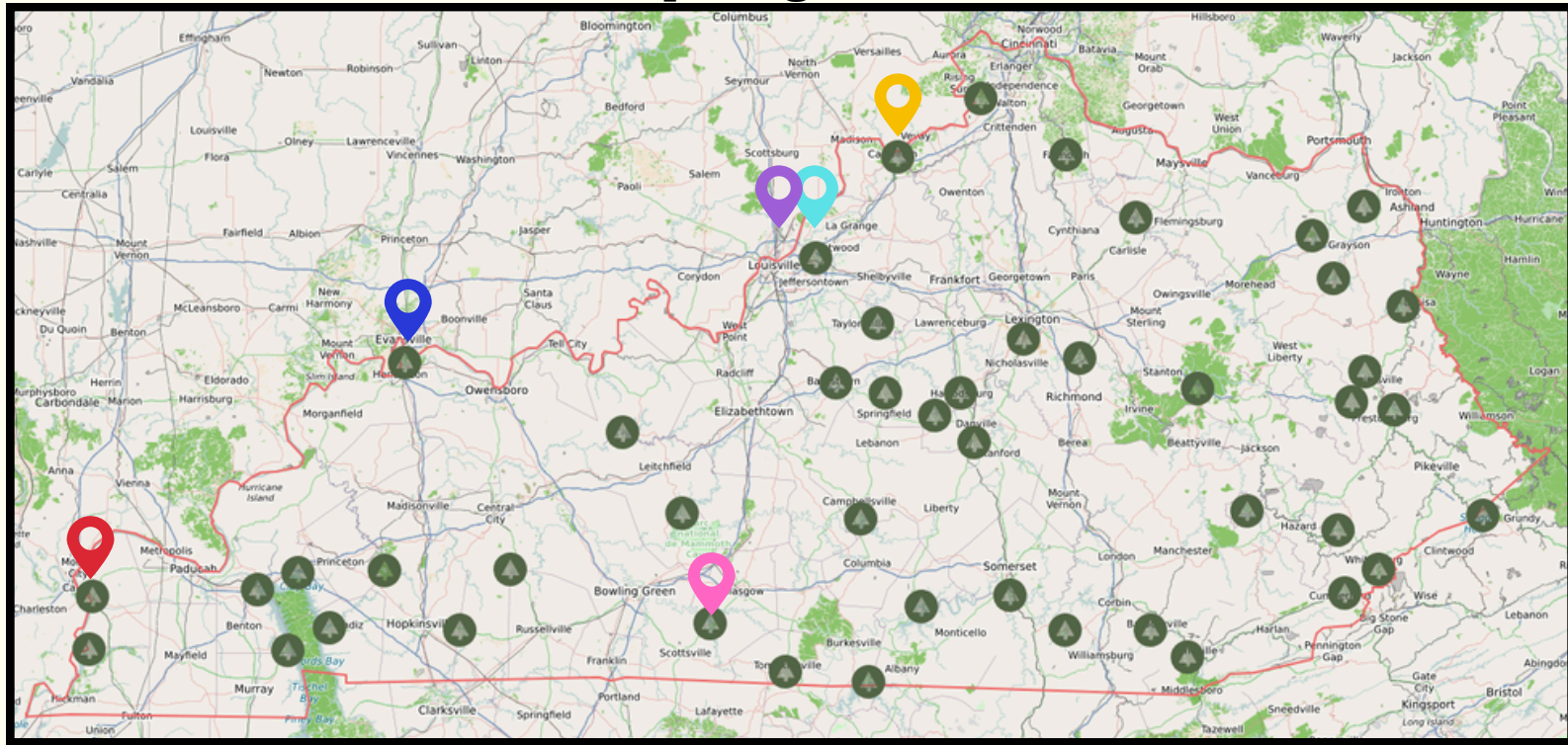
Join Girl Scouts of Central Indiana as you make your way through some of the amazing Indiana State Parks and discover the best that nature has to offer. To see a list of available programs, please visit their website: www.girlscoutsindiana.org/en/activities/events.html?q=state%20parks.

For virtual resources, visit Indiana Department of Natural Resources YouTube page:
www.youtube.com/user/idnrvideos

Girl Scouts Love State Parks

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Participating State Parks



Barron River State Park: 1149 State Park Rd, Lucas, KY 42156 (Kentucky State Park)



E.P. Tom Sawyer State Park: 3000 Freys Hill Rd., Louisville, KY 40241 (Kentucky State Park)



Falls of the Ohio: 201 W Riverside Dr, Clarksville, IN 47129 (Indiana State Park)



General Butler State Park: 1608 Hwy. 227, Carrollton, KY 41008 (Kentucky State Park)



John James Audubon State Park: 3100 US Highway 41 N, Henderson, KY 42420 (Kentucky State Park)



Wickliffe Mounds State Park: 94 Green St, Wickliffe, KY 42087 (Kentucky State Park)

Girl Scouts Love State Parks

Patch Packet

State Parks Photo Submissions

We recommend visiting these state parks between dusk and dawn, Friday, September 12–Sunday, September 14. Explore the amenities at these recommended parks or use the following activities provided by GSK.

- [Barren River State Park Itinerary](#)
(Details pg. 19)
- [E.P. Tom Sawyer State Park Itinerary](#)
(Details pg. 20)
- [Falls of the Ohio](#)
- [General Butler State Park](#)
- [John James Audubon State Park](#)
- [Wickliffe Mounds State Park](#)

To see more Kentucky and Indiana State Parks in your area, visit: parks.ky.gov/ and www.in.gov/dnr/state-parks/parks-lakes/

We are excited to see how you spend time at a State Park this weekend! Please upload some photos using this link <https://bit.ly/41qX4C7> or the QR code to share your fun.



Girl Scouts Love State Parks Patch Packet

Activities for You and Getting the Patch

Please use this packet to check out activity details of Local State Parks. Details include Girl Scouts of Kentuckiana programming, Park programming and park amenities, resources, and self-guided activities.

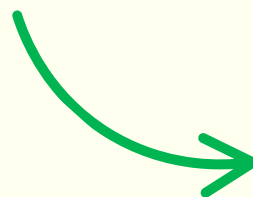


By heading out to explore your local state parks during this year's Girls Scouts Love State Parks Weekend! Every year, on the second weekend of September, you can participate in self-guided tours, family hikes, watersports, stargazing, and more, all while fostering a clean environment for everyone to enjoy with Pick Up America.

Participating in this initiative supports the steps to earn you Girl Scouts Love State Parks Patch.



Scan her to purchase the patch
or visit bit.ly/3UKcVYO



For questions email jgarner@gskentuckiana.org

Aquatic Critter Seek

Aquatic ecosystems are a great place to observe a variety of life forms, including macroinvertebrates, fish, mammals, and birds, where their roles are crucial in maintaining ecological balance and biodiversity.

The Wondrous Life In A Pond



HERON	WOOD DUCK				
DUCKWEED		LEOPARD FROG	BELTED KINGFISHER	PICKERELWEED	AESHNID DRAGONFLY
	WATER SURFACE		WHIRLIGIG BEETLE	WATER SURFACE	LILY PAD
SNAPPING TURTLE		BACKSWIMMER			PREDACEOUS DIVING BEETLE
WATERWEED	TADPOLE	CADDISFLY LARVA	BULLHEAD CATFISH	WATER SCORPION	CHAIN PICKEREL
FRESHWATER CLAM	CRAYFISH		POND SNAIL	TUBIFEX	HORNWORT
			PUMPKINSEED SUNFISH		ADULT RED SALAMANDER

Activity:

Visit a water body (pond, lake, stream or a river) and carefully monitor the critters you see, in and around the water. Freely record and use tools like aquatic nets, binoculars, magnify-glasses and anything else to help explore a water systems.

BioBlitz at the Park

A bioblitz is a timed event where scientists, nature enthusiasts, and volunteers collaborate to catalog as many species as possible in a specific area.



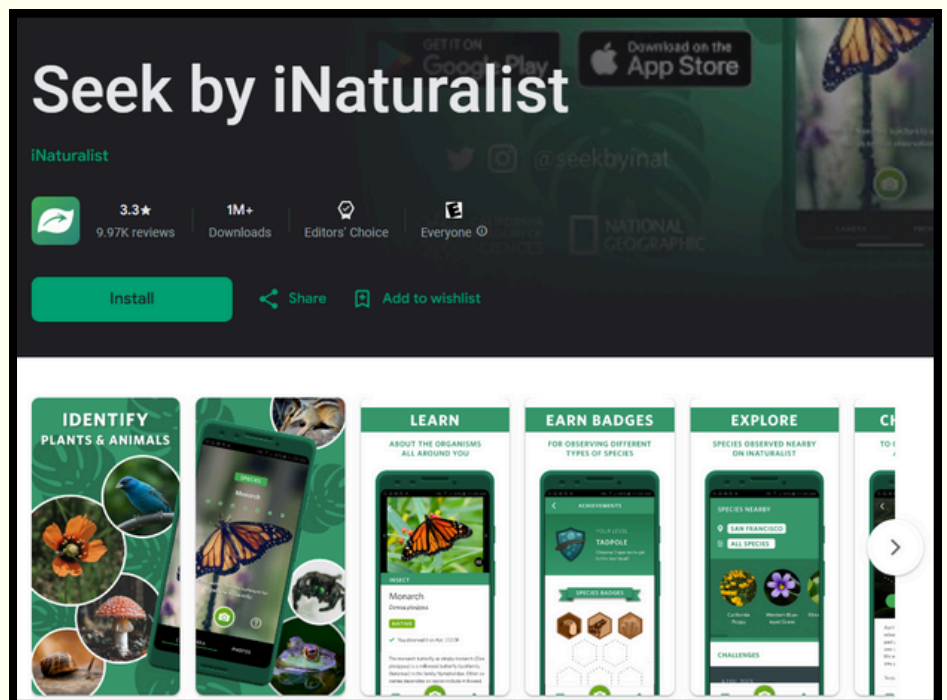
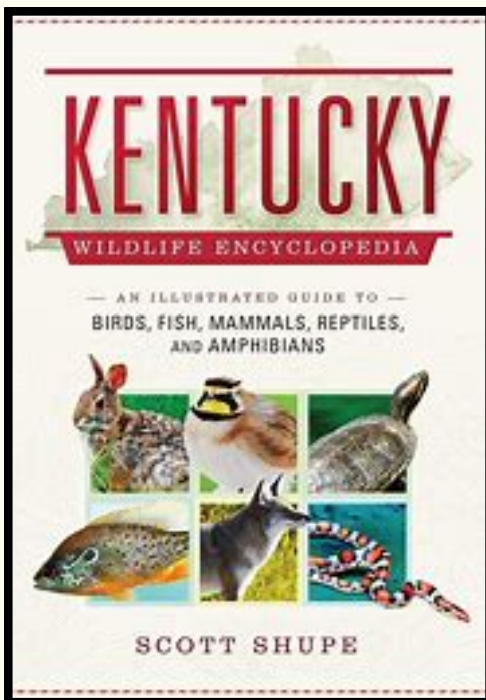
Animals



Plants



Fungus



Activity:

Use tools like binoculars, magnify glasses and cameras to help find and log the wildlife you see at the park. Need help? Use additional tools like field guides or the Seek App to better understand the wildlife you find.

Ecosystem Scavenger Hunt

(Park Edition)

An ecosystem is where non-living and living things, such as plants, animals, and microbes play their roles, interacting in a vibrant community. Each organism contributes to the balance, creating a lively natural network.

Osage Orange Fruit	Monarch Butterfly	Colorful Flower	Crawfish
Red Leaf	Deer Tracks	Green Leaf	Place to sit
Sycamore Tree	Poison Ivy	Fossil	Water fountain
Black Walnut Seed	Turkey Vulture	Beaver Chew	Sunset/Sunrise
Oak Tree Acorn	Daddy Long Legs	Rabbit	Cloud(s)
Pine Needles	Creek Rock	Cardinal Bird	Trail Sign
Pine cone	Tulip Poplar Tree	Poke Weed	Playground

Activity:

Explore the park system in its transitional period from summer to fall to locate unique aspects of the ecosystem. For this activity, please respect Leave No Trace principles and be safe with the item you find.

Ephemeral Art

Ephemeral Art is temporary and fleeting, like sand castles and ice sculptures. It's charm lie in appreciating beauty in the moment, emphasizing the joy of creation over permanence. This art style is rooted in the experience over the final product




Activity:

Collect items found in nature, such as fallen twigs, leaves, seed, flower pedals, rocks, and shells to create an artistic image.


Find Those Signs

Animals live all around us, often hidden from view, yet they constantly leave behind signs of their presence. These signs, such as tracks, nests, and droppings, offer a glimpse into their unseen world. By observing and interpreting these clues, we can uncover the mysteries of their lives and better understand the intricate ecosystems they inhabit.

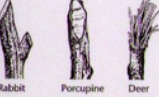
ANIMAL SIGNS




Chewed Nuts and Stripped Cones
Hollowed nuts and stripped cones indicate the presence of rodents like squirrels, chipmunks and mice, and birds such as nuthatches, crossbills and woodpeckers.




Squirrel Midden
A large pile of cone, nut and plant litter found beneath a favorite feeding spot, often at the base of a tree.




Browse
The browsed ends of twigs can indicate who ate them. Rabbits slice off the ends of twigs cleanly at a 45-degree angle. Porcupines leave rows of small bite marks on twig ends. Deer and moose break the ends off twigs and cause the tips to fray.




Barked Trees
Porcupines will chew off large patches of bark on the upper parts of trees. Male deer will often rub the bark off the lower extremities of smaller trees with their antlers.




Scratch Marks on Trees
Bears will claw and bite trees as high as they can reach and often tear the bark off the lower trunk to feed on sap. Bobcats sometimes use trees as 'scratching posts'. Rodents and raccoons leave scratch marks on trees while climbing.




Bird Pellet
Owls, eagles, hawks, ravens and gulls are a few species of birds that commonly regurgitate pellets comprised of undigestible material. The pellets superficially resemble animal scat, but are comprised solely of hair, feathers and bones.




Beaver Lodge
Lodge is constructed primarily of sticks and mud. Size is variable, but is typically over 4 ft. (1.2 m) high and 10 ft. (3 m) in diameter.



Gnawed Trees
Beaver sign.



Squirrel Nest
Round nests of leaves are often located high in the branches of deciduous trees.



Muskrat Lodge
Dome-shaped lodge is constructed of marsh plants and mud. Size is variable, but is typically over 2 ft. (60 cm) high and 3 ft. (90 cm) in diameter.

Guide To Animal Tracks

WHITE-TAILED DEER	MOOSE
2 1/2" to 3"	4 1/2" to 5 1/2"
H - 2 1/2" F - 2 1/2"	H - 2 1/4" F - 2 1/2"
DOG - 2 1/4" to 4"	COYOTE
H - 2" F - 2 1/4"	H - 1 3/4" F - 2"
RED FOX	GRAY FOX
H - 3" F - 4 1/4"	HOUSE CAT - 1 to 2"
BOBCAT - 1 7/8"	LYNX
OTTER - 1 1/2"	FISHER - 2 1/4"
MINK - 1"	WEASEL - 1/2" to 1"


TRACK PATTERN

RACCOON	STRIPED SKUNK
H - 4" F - 2 1/2"	H - 2" F - 2"
PORCUPINE	BEAVER
H - 3 1/4" F - 2 3/4"	H - 6" F - 3"
BLACK BEAR	OPOSSUM
H - 7" F - 4 1/2"	H - 2" F - 1 1/4"
WOODCHUCK	MUSKRAT
H - 2 1/4" F - 2"	H - 2 1/2" F - 1 1/2"
SNOWSHOE HARE	COTTONTAIL RABBIT
H - 5" F - 2"	H - 3 1/2" F - 1"
GRAY SQUIRREL	WHITE-FOOTED MOUSE
H - 2 1/4" F - 1 1/2"	H - 1/4" F - 1/4"
CROW - 2 1/2"	TURKEY - 4"
	RUFFED GROUSE - 2"

TRACKS NOT TO SCALE

Depending on the substrate (snow, mud, dust, sand, etc.) and the speed the animal was moving, tracks may show great variability in their appearance.

F - Front track
H - Hind track
T - Tail marks may be present



Activity:

Pick a trail or walk the edge of an open field or water source to search for signs that animals have been in that area.

Leave No Trace

Leave No Trace (LNT) is a nationwide program of outdoor ethics used by many organizations such as the National Park Service, the US Forest Service, environmental and outdoor education agencies, and youth groups.

Activity:

Use these 7 Leave No Trace Principles to consider the way you visit state parks. Also make note of how these principles impact the park itself. Do you notice trash, can you spot erosion, is it difficult to navigate, are there really cool items you find?



Photography Contest: Ripple Effects

Ripple Effects: Exploring Water in Louisville Photo Contest invites all K-12 students in the Louisville area to capture images of what water means to them. What is most beautiful about water in our community? What water-related problems do we need to address? How do we use, recreate in, and interact with water?



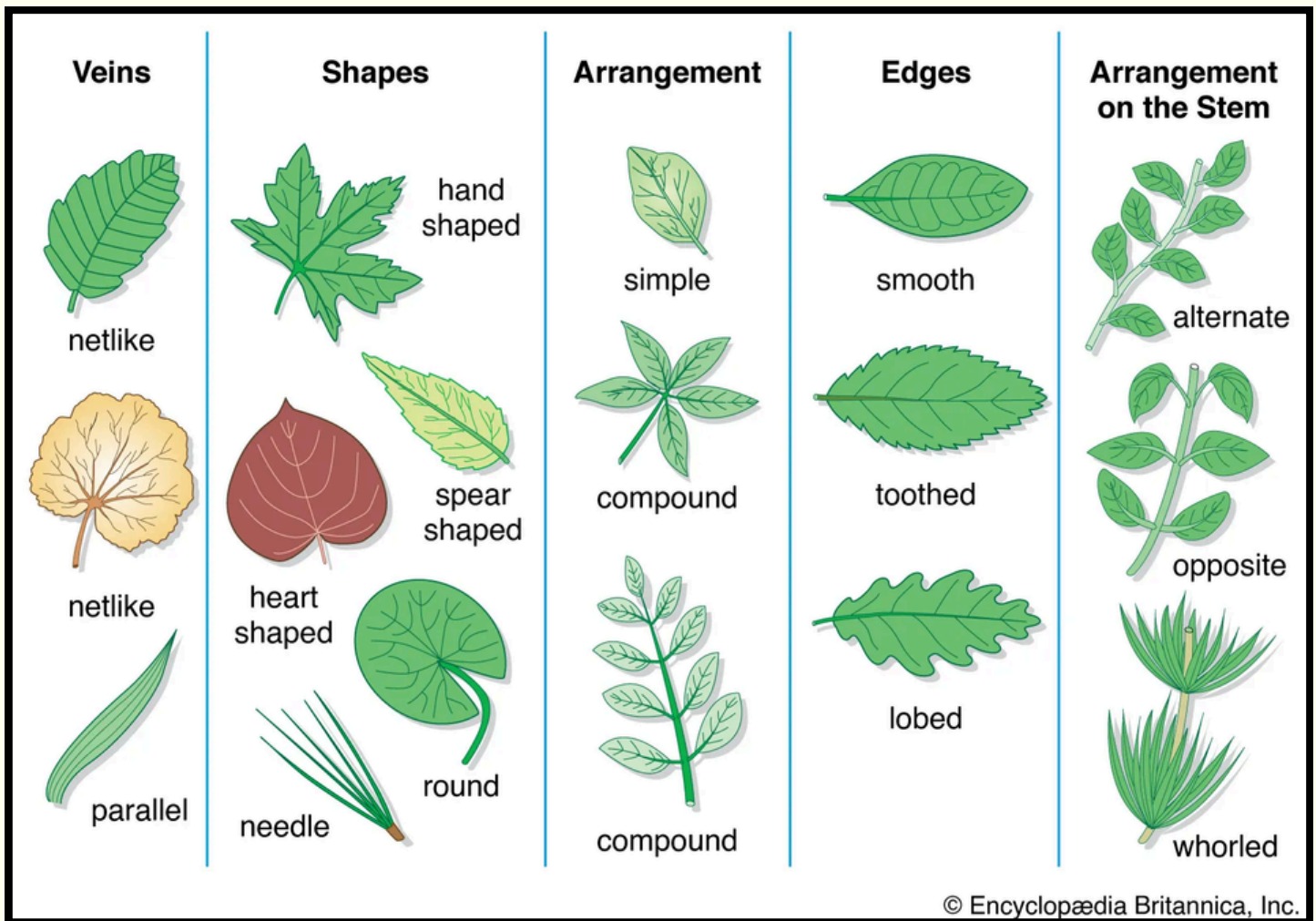
Although competition submissions are for the Louisville Area only, photographing the way water is used in our area by people, wildlife, and systems is a great activity for all in any area.

Activity:

Visit a state park and capture images that mean the most to you. Write a short description of what your favorite photo means. To learn more about the Ripple Effects: Photo Contest got to www.lfpl.org/rippleeffectscontest or visit www.gskentuckiana.org and search GSK Loves Photography to sign up for a workshop where you can enter a photo for a chance to win \$100.

Plants: Shapes and Designs

Understanding plants is a process that varies depending on plant type, what season it is, the location you're in, the species you have, the subspecies there are and the impact the plant has had. Learning the different structures a plant has, such as leaves and the way they are formed, can help deepen the understanding of plant species.



Activity:

Use the guide above to notice the type of leaves that plants have in the area. Which are more common? Which leaves stands out to you? How different are Tree leaves from ushes, or flowers. Do tree have different leaves from eachother?

Spend Time Sketching

John Muir Laws is an artist, educator, and naturalist who has dedicated his career to promoting nature journaling as a means of fostering a deeper connection with the natural world. He emphasizes the importance of observation, creativity, and scientific inquiry in his approach to nature journaling.



Activity (Inspired by John Muir:

Grab a notebook and a writing utensil to note the time, location and the weather conditions. Then spend anywhere from 1-15 minutes making a sketch of the thing happening around you. Use these prompts to inspire your understanding of the environment you see: This reminds me of... I notice... and I wonder...

Take a Hike

Hiking is a delightful adventure for the body. Picture leaves rustling, sunlight filtering through trees, and fresh air invigorating your breath. Each step reveals nature's beauty, from birdsong to a babbling brook. Hiking is an excellent workout and a harmonious embrace of daily life, offering a chance to connect with the earth and find serenity.

Type of Hike	Hike Description
Silent Hike	The purpose of this hike is to listen. This is hard for girls, and there will be, inevitably, some giggling. Try it at night, or at dusk or very early in the morning, when the surroundings seem strange and mysterious
Bird Hike	Go very early in the morning. If you are quiet, you may see lots of birds. Refer to a book on bird watching
Micro Hike	This is a very short expedition guided by a string 3–5 feet long. Hikers cover the trail inch by inch on their bellies; viewing natural wonders such as grass blades, colorful beetles, and tiny pebbles through a magnifying glass.
Tracking and Trailing	One patrol lays a trail; the second patrol follows the trail signs.
Rainy Day Hike	All decked out in rain clothing, go out for a half-hour walk in the rain.

Activity:

Choose any of the hikes above to take at a state park. Keep in mind the 7 Principles of Leave No Trace. Be sure to stay hydrated, have the right gear, and stay together.

Girl Scouts Love State Parks Packet

Barren River Lake State Resort Park Itinerary



Saturday, September 13 - Challenge Activities

11am-12pm Bugs and Butterflies in the Butterfly Garden

1:30pm-3pm Badge Activities (Hiker and Trail Adventurer)

Tree Identification, Leave No Trace

4pm-5pm Crafts (Sand Art and Rock Painting)

Sunday, September 14 - Outdoor Adventure Activities

10:30am Kayaking (Limited Spots)

1:30pm Fishing (equipment provided)

3:30pm Orienteering/Land Navigation

***Barren River Lake State Resort Park
(1149 State Park Rd, Lucas, KY, United States, Kentucky 42156)***

Girl Scouts Love State Parks Packet

E.P. Tom Sawyer Itinerary

Visit E.P. Tom Sawyer during GSLSP weekend for guided activities provided by E.P. Tom Sawyer and GSK staff

Friday, September 12

- 6pm-8pm Community Garden - Meet the Gardeners

Saturday, September 13

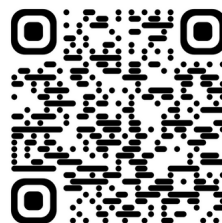
- 10:00am-1:00pm Drop-In Archery with E.P. Tom Sawyer (Archery Range)
- 12:00pm-2:00pm Meet the Gardeners (Community Garden Area)
- 10:00am- 11:30am and 1:00am- 2:30pm Tom Sawyer Guided Creek Walk (email: jgarner@gskentuckiana.org for registration)
- 11:00am-1:00pm Pickleball (Staffed by Ambassadors) but free play all day (Tennis Court)
- 4:30pm-6:30pm GSK Outdoor Interactive Exploration Stations

Sunday, September 14

- 12:00pm - 2:00pm Drop-In Archery w/ E.P. Tom Sawyer (Archery Range)
- 1:00pm- 2:30pm E.P. Tom Sawyer Guided Creek Walk (email: jgarner@gskentuckiana.org for registration)

E.P. Tom Sawyer State Park (3000 Freys Hill Rd., Louisville, KY 40241)

Visit parks.ky.gov and Search
EP Tom Sawyer for park details
or use the this QR Code:



Girl Scouts Love State Parks

GSK Stations

E.P. Tom Sawyer Park Map

