

Program Toolkit

A Bug's Life

It doesn't have to be so tough to be a bug! This program is designed for Daisies and Brownies and can be tailored to other levels as well. It can also be easily turned into a badge-earning event for younger Girl Scouts as well. Girl Scouts will get to learn all about bugs, go on a scavenger hunt, and get creative!

This event is an ideal one to hold at a local park or other outdoor area. You can especially do this if it monarch butterfly season in California! All resources you may need are listed & linked below or included at the end of this packet.

Time: 2.5-3 hours, but feel free to pick and choose which activities you want to do!

Steps Overview:

- Learn about the phases of a monarch butterfly
- Craft: Make your own butterfly
- Go on a bug scavenger hunt
- Craft: design a new kind of bug

Materials Needed:

Activity #1: Life of a Monarch Butterfly

- Option 1:
 - Screen or projector
 - [Video of a butterfly's life cycle](#)
- Option 2:
 - [Book about a butterfly's life cycle, such as this one](#)

Activity #2: Create a Butterfly

- Small white coffee filters
- wooden clothespins
- Markers
- Spray bottle of water
- Paper plates
- Markers
- Tacky glue

Activity #3: Bug Scavenger Hunt

- Scavenger hunt cards (attached)
- Writing utensils
- (Optional) Clipboards
- (Optional) Magnifying glasses
- Large, outdoor space

Activity #4: Design a New Bug

- Blank paper & writing utensils
- Cardboard tubes, boxes, etc.
- Construction paper
- Hole punches
- Yarn
- Masking tape
- Straws
- Glue sticks
- Etc. (the point is to have many different kinds of supplies to use! You can collect recyclables and the like for this activity)

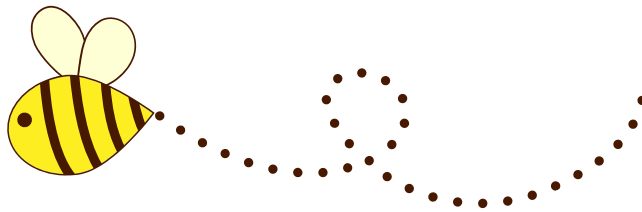
Introduction

Say: Welcome to A Bug's Life! Today we are going to learn all about bugs, spend some time outside, and also make new friends!

What are some bugs you see often? What do they look like? *Allow Girl Scouts to share with a neighbor some facts they know, and potentially share with the larger group.*

Today, we are going to be doing all kinds of things to learn about different kinds of bugs and where they live. Let's begin!

Here is a good place to also provide info about where the bathrooms are, where the First Aider will be, and how the event will run.



Activity #1: Life of a Monarch Butterfly

- Say: Have you ever seen a monarch butterfly before? What do they look like? Are butterflies born as butterflies, or as something else? *(Have the kids recall what info they already know about butterflies before diving into the activity)*

Option 1: Storybook

- Have the kids sit in a circle, on a rug, tarp, or soft grassy spot. Sit down and read the story of a monarch butterfly. Give the kids opportunity to share opinions, ask questions, and more as you read!

Option 2: Video

- Have the kids gather around the TV, computer, or projector. Be sure to turn on captions for the video as you watch.
- Pause throughout to offer kids an opportunity to ask questions and share stories as you watch.



Activity #2: Create a Butterfly

- Say: Even though certain kinds of butterflies have similar colors and patterns on them, no two are the same! We are now going to design our very own unique and beautiful butterflies.

Step 1: Color the coffee filters

- Give each Girl Scout a paper plate and write their name on the edge. Have each of them place their coffee filter on the plate.
- Pass around the markers, and have the Girl Scouts decorate the filters. Since the colors will run together, encourage them to use about 3-4 colors and leave some white space (but there is no wrong way to do this!)

Step 2: Spray with water & let dry

- Once their filters are decorated, ensure that they are on the paper plates and lightly spray with water 2-3 times (make sure it is on the mist setting).
- If you would like more of a mix of colors, spray it 1-2 more times. Remember, you can always add more water, but cannot take any away.
- Place the coffee filter to dry in the sun if you can.

Step 3: Decorate the clothespins

- Hand out a clothespin to each Girl Scout
- Using the markers, have the kids decorate the clothespin to form the body of the butterfly.
- Draw the butterfly's face at the top (note: if you would like to use googly eyes for this, you can!)

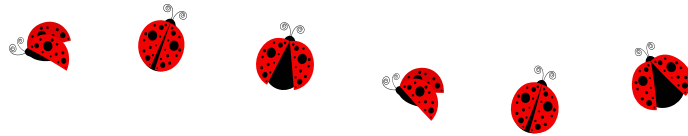
Step 4: Assemble the butterfly

- Once the coffee filter is mostly dry, scrunch the circle in the middle to form a middle.
- Clip the clothespin over the middle, and fluff out the two sides to form the wings.
- Using small pieces of pipe cleaners, glue them to the top of the clothespin to form the antennae.



Activity #3: Bug Scavenger Hunt

- Take the Girl Scouts outside to a wide open area, such as a field, a picnic area, etc.
- Give each Girl Scout a scavenger hunt paper and a writing utensil
 - You may have Girl Scouts complete this individually or in teams! If you have many younger kids, this may be a particularly wise idea.
- Inform the Girl Scouts clearly of where the boundaries of the scavenger hunt are, and they may begin!
- When they are done, check their answers, and give them a small prize! Stickers or a temporary tattoo are always a hit.



Activity #4: Design a New Bug

Step 1: Learn what a bug needs to live

- Have the Girl Scouts sit down or gather away from all the exciting building supplies
- Talk about how bugs need the following to live:
 - A way to move around (ask: *What kinds of things do the bugs we have seen today use to move? Wings, legs, etc.*)
 - A way to eat (*most use their mouth, but some drink nectar some eat leaves, some bugs, etc.*)
 - A way to see & sense the world (*Discuss. Eyes, antennae, etc.*)
 - A place to live (*Discuss. In trees, on leaves, underground, on a web, in a home they build, etc.*)

Step 2: Sketch your new bug

- Give each Girl Scout a piece of paper and a writing utensil. Have them sketch the design of their new bug that they will make! Be sure to ask them the above questions as they are creating (*What does your bug use to move around? What do they eat? etc.*)

Step 3: Build & show off your new bug

- Allow the Girl Scouts to fully embrace their creativity and build their bug using all the supplies available to them!
- Be sure to give consistent time checks, according to how long you have allotted to the activity.
- Allot a good amount of time to clean up the space as well - this activity can get messy!
- Have the kids show off their bugs to one another at the end of the activity.

Closing

Say: I hope you all had fun learning all about bugs and spending time outside! What is the most interesting thing you saw or learned today? *Allow Girl Scouts an opportunity to share.*

The world is amazing, so remember to take some time to admire its beauty every now and then. Thank you for coming!



Supporting Materials on following pages

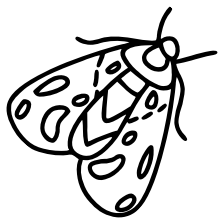
Monarch Butterfly Sanctuaries in Northern California

Monarch butterflies and their migration are fascinating, and such a cool thing to see in person! We are lucky that the butterflies come to various parts of our council every year. This event would be awesome to have at a park with the monarch butterflies! Be sure to check the dates for when the butterflies will be there (typically October-February). You can find a list of some of the sanctuaries below:

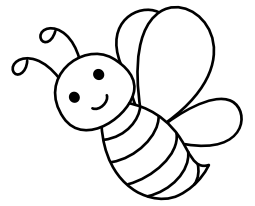
1. [Natural Bridges State Park](#) - Santa Cruz, CA
2. [Golden Gate National Recreation Area, The Presidio](#) - San Francisco, CA
3. [Oyster Bay Regional Shoreline](#) - San Leandro, CA

A map with [updates throughout the season of the butterflies is available here.](#)





Bug Scavenger Hunt



A leaf that looks like it's been eaten by a bug: draw its shape	Something with wings - doesn't have to be a bug!	A bug crawling on the ground - what is it doing?
An animal that looks like it may be hunting for a bug to eat! Draw it here!	A bug on a tree - draw the bug here!	A bug that you don't know what it's called! What would you name it if it was up to you?
A bug on a plant - how many legs does it look like the bug has?	A bee or a butterfly! Draw it here!	An ant trail! How many ants can you see?
A hole in the ground, a tree, or a rock. What kind of bug do you think may live in there?	Have you ever gotten a mosquito bite? What did it look like? What did it feel like?	A bug flying in the air! How big is the bug?
A source of water - how many bugs do you see flying above it?	A Spider web! Draw it on the back!	<i>A different</i> bug crawling on the ground - what is it doing?