



Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois Council's Own

Going Batty Badge Requirements

Based on the Try-It by Christine and Carolyn Stewart of the former River Bluffs Council

Bats have a bad reputation, but are actually very helpful creatures. A single bat can eat 600 mosquitoes in an hour! Girls will learn about how bats “see” and what bats eat. Girls will also investigate the myths and realities of bats and their relationship with people.

To earn the Going Batty award, Brownie Girl Scouts must complete at least six of the following activities:

1. Read a book about bats. From the book, pick out one or two species of bats that are interesting to you and make a poster describing them.
2. Invite someone knowledgeable about bats to a troop meeting. What are some species of bats that live in your area? Are there any species of bats that are on the endangered species list?
3. All of the bats that live in Illinois have a special hearing system called *echolocation*. Try to imagine what it would be like to find your way to your room only by listening to your voice bounce off the walls. Play a game that uses echolocation like Bat and Moth or Marco Polo.
4. How are bats helpful to people? Find out five ways bats can help you! *Hint: some bats don't eat insects; they drink nectar!*
5. Find out about bat houses. Ask an adult to help you build and/or set up a bat house. How is a bat house like your house? Place in an appropriate location.
6. Find out about some of the myths associated with bats (vampires, etc.). How did they come about? Make up your own myth that stars bats as the good guys.
7. Learn about rabies and how it relates to bats. Do bats “carry rabies” or are they in danger of “contracting rabies” just like us? Make up a list of rules for safely viewing bats in the wild.
8. Make a poster telling about what great neighbors bats make. Include on your poster how we can be great neighbors to bats! Arrange to have your bat posters displayed at your school or community center
9. Use bats as a basis for an art project – paint a picture, make bat origami, bat sculpture, bat handprint painting – and have a bat themed art show. Make sure you have plenty of bat facts on hand at your art show to pass out to your visitors.