

Girl Scout Council of Central New York, Inc.



*Become an entomologist and learn about insects in fun and interesting ways. Learn to identify harmful insects and harmless insects. To earn the Interesting Insects Try-It girls must complete four activities.*

What is an insect? What characteristics do they all have in common? Play the game "Ants on the Loose" to show you understand all the body parts of an insect. To play begin by choosing someone to be IT. Divide the rest of the group into teams of three. Each player is a body part of an "ant" that must join together with two other body parts (by holding on to other teammates at the waist.) to make a whole insect. The player who is IT is minus two body parts and must chase the ants by attempting to attach herself to one of them. Start by telling the ants to move around. Remind them that they must stay attached as they move. Any ant that becomes unattached is a sleeping ant and must sit down. Then tell IT to begin her chase and try to hook onto the last person making up one of the ants. When she is successful, the first person on the tagged ant (the head) must unhook and become IT. Play continues with the new IT attempting to hook onto another ant and all sleeping ants rejoining the game.

Learn how to distinguish harmful from harmless insects. List some reason why people might like and dislike insects. What are some organic (without chemicals) ways of controlling insects? Make a list of helpful insects and how they help.

Conduct research at the library or on the Internet and look for interesting insect trivia, share these with your troop/group or family. Make up a skit using some trivia information and perform it with your friends or troop/group.

Make your very own Ladybug Antennae. Use a plastic headband, pipe cleaners, and Styrofoam balls. Discover the scientific family or species that Ladybugs belong to. How many other family species of insects can you find?

Choose your favorite insect and discover what it eats. How does your insect eat its food (chew, drink, siphon)? Identify the plants that might attract it. Would your insect be considered a pest to a garden or a helpful insect? Plant some seeds to attract your favorite insect to your garden! Pretend you are an insect and eat in the same manner as an insect would; and enjoy a tasty snack with your troop/group.

Discover the life stages of a variety of insects. Are they born or hatched? How do they change throughout their lifecycle and what is this change called? What foods are necessary during each stage of their life cycle? Do they develop wings? Do insects hibernate?

With help from an adult collect a small bowl with a little pond water. Look for a water insect, scoop it up with a net, and carefully place it in the bowl. Look at your insect more closely through a magnifying glass. Draw a sketch and then return the insect to its home in the pond (be careful not to harm it)

When it is bright and sunny outside; lay a variety of brightly colored sheet of paper on the ground. Make a note of how many insects visit each sheet. Take the two sheets that were least popular with the insects and gently brush over a little water with sugar dissolved in it. Now how many insects come to these sheets?