

Our Own Council's Lou Henry Hoover Patch



GUIDELINES: Discover the natural wonders of The Outback at A Place for Girls, to become more comfortable with our natural world, and to maintain The Outback as a Lou Henry Hoover Memorial.

	Discover	Connect	Take Action	Any Activity under any key	Total number of Activities
Girl Scout Daisy	1	1	1	0	3
Girl Scout Brownie	1	1	1	1	4
Girl Scout Junior	1	1	1	2	5
Girl Scout Cadette	1	1	1	3	6
Girl Scout Senior	1	1	1	4	7
Girl Scout Ambassador	1	1	1	5	8

DISCOVER

- Participate in a nature scavenger hunt- Find as many of the following as you can. Collect only things that you can return safely and without damage. Leave nature as you found it.

Something green
An ant hill
A pine cone
A mushroom
A feather
Man made litter
Something soft

A seed
A rock
An insect
A spider web
A thorn
A bone
A chewed leaf

A nest
Animal tracks
An oak tree
Something orange
Something sharp
Something fuzzy
A big smile

- Unnatural Trail- Follow a part of the trail and have girls find and count as many of the man made objects they see. Talk about how they affect the natural area. What do these things look like? Do we need them here? Is it good or bad to have them here?
- Cloud watching- Find an area that girls can sit back and watch as clouds drift by through the trees so they are not looking directly at the sun. Do you see any shapes in the clouds? Call out what you see. Maybe your friends see the same thing. Did you find something different from everyone else?
- With eyes closed, sit in a circle as a group and listen to the sounds of the world around you. Have everyone share with the group at least one sound she hears.
- Now listen for swaying trees, fluttering butterflies and the blowing wind. Is this place quieter than your back yard? Is it quieter than your street? Do you hear sounds you have never noticed before? Do you like the quiet of nature?
- Sounds and colors- This time sit down with both fists in the air. Every time you hear a new bird song, lift a finger. Does the bird song you hear sound happy or scared? What would be the different ways scared birds might sing? Do you think it would be louder or faster? Now, look around and lift a finger for every color you see from this spot.

CONNECT

1. At Croushore Observation Station look for the tall thin rods with green leaves that look like grass with large furry tops filled with seeds. These are called Phragmites and do not belong here. How do you think they got here? Hint: think about seeds and how they travel on wind and water. Sometimes plants that do not belong in a place crowd out plants that should be there. Do you think that has happened here?
2. Find the weather station at the Jackite Observation Platform. Look at the poster that has pictures of clouds. Do you see any of those clouds in the sky above you today? What is the weather like? Is the wind blowing hard or is it hardly blowing at all? Can you feel it on your face?
3. On the creek side of the boardwalk near Happy Birding Point, you should see a wild cherry tree with shiny green leaves. In the spring there are red or brown berries in its branches. Do you think animals could eat the berries? What other parts of a tree do animals use? A dead standing tree is called a snag. Look around you to find a snag. What birds peck at trees that are living or dead? What are they looking for when they peck?
4. Before crossing the bridge, look at the water below. When looking at the water from this side (before going further into the Outback), if the water is moving from left to right, we say the tide is going out. If the water is moving from right to left, we say the tide is coming in. This means this area is a tidal basin and the water level rises or falls. Does this movement of the water explain one way plant seeds move to other areas around them? What are some other ways seeds travel to other areas? Before you leave this area, look at the color of the water. Can you see the bottom? You probably cannot because this is one of the most polluted areas of Chesapeake. What does the word polluted mean? What are some of the causes of this pollution?
5. On the Warfield Creek Walk, you can sometimes see the Trumpet Vine. These vines have red-orange tube shaped flowers that can grow up to three inches long. This flower has a special juice called nectar. Do you think a bird can drink from the flowers? If so, what really small bird has a long beak that can fit in the trumpet flower? How does the Hummingbird feeding on the flower show that nature shares with one another? What are some other ways nature shares with one another?
6. Watch a bird, mammal, or insect for as long as you can OR find evidence that they have been there, such as tracks, or partially eaten plants. Make this a quiet activity as girls explore the natural world around them. How do people fit into the world around us? What animals can you imitate?
7. Take a hike on the Great Bridge Lions Club Nature and Visibility Trail to the Gathering place. Look up at the trees. Is this area what you think of as a forest? What natural things make up a forest? How many of them have you seen around you? What else could you find in another forest area? Make a game of naming things you find in the forest area.
8. Just beyond the second (Napolitano) and third (Jackite) observation stations look for the Carolina Jessamine. It is also a vine and the flower is yellow. The flowers, leaves, and roots of this plant are poisonous. This flower has an elongated shape and blooms early in the spring. Look for Honeysuckle here. They bloom from April until July. Learn about the bird that drinks the nectar from these flowers. Along the boardwalk is the pink Carolina Rose which blooms from May to October. Notice the round area called "rose hips" under the petals. Watch out for thorns!
9. The Outback is home to a large number of birds, mammals, and insects which can be observed any time of the year. Spending quiet time in The Outback is a great way to observe them any time of the year. Animals such as squirrels, Canadian geese, raccoons, opossum, foxes, owls, hawks, and osprey have been spotted here. Try looking for tracks in the mud just beyond the kayaks at the Snyder Observation Station along the creek at low tide. Find a stump and count the rings on it. You might also see muskrat in the creek. Identify three types of birds near the creek, around the tower, or in the trees behind you.
10. Take a hike on the Great Bridge Lions Club Nature and Visibility Trail to the Gathering Place. Identify the pine seedlings and learn about repopulating the forest.
11. Learn the unusual life cycle of the ferns. Draw a picture of the different phases. Learn about fungi such as Lichens and how they are used by animals.
12. At Happy Birding Point, look over the railing on either side to the ground area below. Look for shells called mussels. They are food for birds and animals. The plant grasses (Spartina) in the wet areas are home to voles and mice. Look them up and see if you can tell them apart. Often you can see small minnows and tadpoles that have been spawned in high tide and remain

here. The holes in the mud are homes to small sand fiddler crabs.

13. When you return from The Outback, stop by the butterfly garden near the goldfish water garden. Look for the flowers that attract butterflies. Note any butterflies you see there. Learn about the life cycle of the butterfly. Consider sketching butterflies, birds, or other animals you have seen.
14. Find out about Lou Henry Hoover and how she helped Girl Scouts learn about the out-of-doors. Find out what a Lou Henry Hoover Memorial Sanctuary is and what part of A Place for Girls is dedicated as a memorial to her.

TAKE ACTION

1. Do a good turn in The Outback. Contact the Council property manager for suggestions and needed good turns for The Outback. You can always pick up trash on the land or in the water. Along the creek, trash is often carried ashore by a high tide.

Now that you have followed some trails and found lots of natural things to enjoy, continue to explore The Outback at A Place for Girls with your troop. There are many more things to do here. Your group may decide to have a cookout or do the Fitness Trail patch program. Enjoy the world outdoors and come back soon. Share the fun with someone else today.