girl scouts of the colonial coast

Explore The Virginia Zoo

Located at 3500 Granby Street, Norfolk, VA 23504, the Virginia Zoo is home to more than 700 animals, representing over 150 species! Visit https://virginiazoo.org/ or call 757-441-2374 for current admission rates and hours of operation. Due to the ever-changing nature of a zoo, exhibits may have been modified since these requirements were written; ask a zoo employee if you are having trouble finding something. *Do not feed or harass the animals.*

GUIDELINES: Based on the grid, complete the number of activities for your grade level to earn this patch.

	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

Before you start:
Download the app, with your parent or guardian's permission. Read the rules board outside the zoo entrance. Check for any special events happening today, which would be posted at the admissions window, in the zoo plaza, or listed on the app. Maps are posted throughout the zoo, online, and on the app.

DISCOVER

- Go to a scheduled keeper chat and talk with a VA Zookeeper. Check the signboard inside the zoo entrance or the app for scheduled times (seasonal). Name one thing you learned from the Zookeeper.
- Check out a Zoo Live! Stage show (seasonal) and chat with the staff presenting the animals. Name one thing you learned about the animals presented. · Name a local animal living at the Virginia Zoo that you might find here in your backyard (native to Virginia)!
- Throughout the zoo, you might notice different kinds of animals living together in the same exhibit. This is called a multi-species exhibit and can be found in multiple places throughout the zoo. Find one and list the animals living in the multi-species exhibit.
- A habitat is a place where an animal lives. Some habitats include forests, wetlands, grasslands, and many other types. Find two animals that live in different habitats.
- The Virginia Zoo has several special garden areas. Find and explore at least one of these. (African Village Garden, Rain Garden, Butterfly Garden, Shade Garden, etc.) What did you like best about the area you selected?
- What are five animals that live in the World of Reptiles Building?
- What are five animals in the Okavango Delta area (Africa)?
- What are five animals that live in the Trail of the Tiger area (Asia)?
- Take a walk by our Animal Wellness Campus. Look through the windows at our vet hospital (exam room and surgery room) and diet kitchen. List three things you saw and how they are important for the care of our animals.

Patches may be purchased in the Virginia Zoo gift shop. Call ahead to confirm availability.

- Zoo staff and volunteers have many different tasks and responsibilities that they do at the zoo. Find three zoo employees or volunteers, and ask them what department they work for and what they do. Then, fill in the chart below.

	Zoo Staff/Volunteer 1	Zoo Staff/Volunteer 2	Zoo Staff/Volunteer 3	Zoo Staff/Volunteer 4
Department				
Job				

CONNECT

- Every animal plays an important part in their habitat and the ecosystem they live in. Write down one reason why it's important to conserve and protect all species and where they live. If you're having trouble, ask a staff member!
- Enrichment is very important at the Virginia Zoo which helps encourage and stimulate an animal's natural behavior. Find examples of enrichment in an animal's enclosure. Compare it to another animal's enrichment. How does it differ? What do you do for enrichment?
- Many animals at the Virginia Zoo are threatened or endangered in their native habitats. Name two threats/reasons these animals might be threatened or endangered.
- As you explore the zoo, see if you can spot the Species Survival Plan (SSP) symbol on certain animal exhibit signs. What animals did you find at the zoo with this symbol? To learn more about what SSP is and how important it is for the future of animal conservation, visit https://www.aza.org/species-survival-plan-programs.

- Visit the World of Reptile Building and explore the diversity of reptiles, amphibians and other animals that live there. Read the exhibit signs and information, talk to a zookeeper (if available) and learn ways that you can help protect reptiles and amphibians in your backyard. Write down one thing you learned.
- The Virginia Zoological Park is committed to saving and protecting the world's wildlife by inspiring a passion for nature and taking conservation action at home and around the world. Learn about a conservation project the zoo is involved with and write one thing you learned.

TAKE ACTION

- Share with your parents, troop or group three interesting facts you've learned while at the Virginia Zoo. Create a poster, brochure or video to encourage others to visit too.
- With a parent's permission, explore a website related to animal conservation. Association of Zoos and Aquariums (https://www.aza.org/), Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (https://cites.org/), or a website on your favorite endangered animal.
- What do you think an animal in a zoo needs in its habitat? Does it need shelter? Does it have food and water? What about something to do so it doesn't get bored? Visit other zoo's websites or Zoo Lex (https://zoolex.org/) for more on designing habitats, then take what you have learned about animal enclosures and design and draw what you think would be a perfect enclosure for your favorite animal. Will it have enough space? How will it get its food and water? What sort of barrier will its enclosure have? Share your drawing with your family, troop or group and explain why you designed it the way you did.
- Talk to your family about planting native plants at your house. What plants will you include and why? Find out about native gardening by visiting websites like the USDA Forest Service

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(https://www.fs.usda.gov/) or the National Wildlife Federation's Native Plant Finder (https://www.nwf.org/NativePlantFinder)

- Find some ways you can help the wildlife in your area. Take part in an environmental cleanup or other similar program.
- Become a community scientist (also known as citizen scientist) by joining several volunteer research opportunities like Frog Watch USA, FeederWatch, or visit Scistarter.org to find a project that interests you!
- Find out about the Zoo Crew and Conservation Youth Team programs. When you are old enough, you can come and volunteer at the Virginia Zoo!

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