



GIRL SCOUTS OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

IN THE FLYWAY

A GS NORCAL COUNCIL'S OWN BADGE PROGRAM

IN THE FLYWAY BADGE

TO ENCOURAGE AND INSPIRE GIRLS TO EXPLORE
THE WORLD OF BIRDS OF SAN FRANCISCO BAY.



PURPOSE

Birds are everywhere! As you walk around your neighborhood, you may hear and see many different kinds of birds. The San Francisco Bay Area is home to thousands of birds. Begin to understand more about these amazing animals with this Badge!

REQUIREMENTS

Complete 4 of the following activities.

All members of Girl Scouts of the USA are eligible to earn the In the Flyway Badge.

The In the Flyway Badge is an official award and should be worn on the front of the vest or sash.

ORDER INFORMATION

To order the In the Flyway Badge, please visit www.girlscoutsnorcal.org and purchase the items online. Please note that shipping and handling will be added to all online orders.

Members of Girl Scouts of Northern California will not be charged for shipping and handling if they use the GS NorCal Council's Own Order Form and have badges shipped to the closest GS NorCal store in their area for members to pick up.

ORDER PATCHES ONLINE AT WWW.GIRLSCOUTSNORCAL.ORG
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON PATCH PROGRAMS CONTACT PATCHES@GIRLSCOUTSNORCAL.ORG

IN THE FLYWAY BADGE FOR BROWNIE GIRL SCOUTS

Complete 4 of the following activities.

1. BE A BIRDER

A birder is someone who likes studying birds. Binoculars are a great tool every birder uses when looking for or studying birds. It can be tricky learning to use binoculars. See if your troop leader or parents have binoculars that you can borrow. Carefully put the strap around your neck and practice moving the lens rings so you can see things more clearly. When you feel comfortable using the binoculars, use them to quietly observe birds in the Richardson Bay Audubon Center and Sanctuary or another great birding spot !

2. BIRD BEHAVIORS

Sit quietly for 5 minutes outdoors and bird watch (you can use binoculars if you have learned how). Pay attention to what the birds are doing. Are they flying? Eating? Walking around? Protecting themselves? Birds have many interesting behaviors. Share with a friend at least 3 behaviors that you observed. Can you think of any behaviors you were unable to see? Perhaps you *heard* some? Did you see or hear any behaviors similar to those that people do? Were there any that only birds can do?

For fun, act out a bird behavior and have a friend or your troop guess which one it is!

3. A LONG TRIP

Some birds travel, or *migrate*, at different times of the year. They go where the weather is better for them or where food is plentiful. Some birds travel over 12,000 miles in a single year! Choose one local bird that migrates that you can learn about. What time of the year does it live in your area? What is it doing during that time? Is it nesting, feeding or resting? Find out where it goes when it is not living in your area. How far of a trip does it take?

4. BEAKS AND FEET

The color, shape and size of a bird's body, beak and feet help it survive in the wild. These are called *adaptations*. Observe birds outdoors and look at pictures of birds to identify many of these adaptations. Can you figure out if a bird lives in the water or in the trees? Can you tell what a bird eats by looking at its beak? Do you think it catches fish, other birds or small animals? What color is it? Where would it be able to hide the best? In a tree, in the grass or somewhere else?

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5. FANCY FEATHERS

The color, pattern, and layers of feathers on a bird are called the *plumage*. Some birds change their feathers every year! Changes in plumage are pretty cool. Learn when and why some birds change their plumage. Get creative and make your own special plumage with which to proudly strut about. Create a “feather” crown and special tail “feathers” from strips of colored construction paper.

6. BUILD A NEST

All birds lay eggs and many build nests to keep their eggs and babies safe. Search for nests at the Sanctuary, at a park or at home. Did you find any? If so, were they easy to find? Where did you see most of the nests you found?

Look at different kinds of bird nests either at the Sanctuary or find some pictures of nests in books or on the Web. Do all bird nests look alike? Can you guess which kind of bird might live in each nest? What materials did the birds use to make their nests?

Make your own nest with leaves, rocks, mud, stones, and other natural materials. Share your nest with a friend or your troop. Talk about what makes your nest special. If you were a bird, where would you have built this nest? In a tree? On the beach? Along a river? .

7. HIDE & SEEK

Bird eggs come in many different colors and some may be spotted or speckled. Look at a variety of bird eggs. Why are the eggs colored the way they are? Using soft dough, make a few of your own eggs with different colors and patterns. Head outside with a friend. Take turns hiding your eggs and having the other person find them. Which eggs were found first? Why? Which eggs were found last? Why? If you were a mother bird, what color would you want your eggs to be if this was your home?

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