

Junior Scout Habitats Parent Guide

This page is for parents or adult leaders to use in assisting scouts.

The Activity sheet is designed to help guide your Junior to places in the Aquarium and will aid them in completing their steps towards badges. Pick up an Aquarium of the Pacific map at the entrance before starting this activity sheet. The places where you need to go for each activity are **Bolded** on the parent guide. Some of the activities may need additional assistance or conversation from you, but by the end your Junior should be able to satisfy several of the requirements noted below:

Step 1: Find out about wild animals.

Step 2: Investigate an animal habitat.

Step 3: Create an animal house.

Step 4: Explore endangered animals.

Find out about wild animals (Step 1)

This activity must be completed partly at home and partly at the Aquarium. Have your Junior watch a pet animal for 15 minutes, either their own or a friend or family member's. Record three different behaviors they notice. Some common animal behaviors are eating, grooming, resting, sleeping, locomotion (walking, swimming, crawling, flying, etc.) vocalizing (making various sounds) and socializing. After doing the home observation find a similar wild animal at the Aquarium. For example, if your scout observes a mammal at home like a cat or dog have them observe a mammal at the aquarium like a seal or otter. Juniors should observe for 15 minutes and record three behaviors for the wild counterpart. Compare the behaviors to find similarities and differences.

Investigate an animal habitat (Step 2)

Visit the **Northern Pacific gallery**. Use any of the exhibits available to pick 5 different animals that live in the cold waters of the Northern Pacific. Answer the questions about each animal by searching for information on signs or simply watching them in their exhibit. If your Junior has questions that become too difficult to answer, ask an Aquarium staff member for help.

Create an animal house (Step 3)

View the seahorses on display in the **Tropical Pacific gallery**. Discuss elements of a habitat (food, water, shelter, mates, etc.) that an animal needs to survive. Be sure that your Junior includes the things a seahorse needs in their drawing.

Explore endangered habitats (Step 4)

Visit the **Tropical Pacific gallery** to see the live coral exhibit. The brightly colored coral in this exhibit has a symbiotic relationship with microscopic algae called zooxanthellae. (ZOH-zan-THEL-ay) The coral shelters the algae and the algae provides food for the coral

through photosynthesis. This relationship is very delicate and many things can cause corals to lose their zooxanthellae. If the coral are without zooxanthellae for too long they cannot survive. Some of the threats to coral habitats include:

Physical damage from collection or trawl nets.

Temperature changes in water caused by climate change.

Chemical changes from ocean acidification caused by elevated carbon dioxide.

Invasive species introduced by human beings.

Help protect animal habitats (Step 5)

This step must be completed at home. Take action in a way that helps protect animal habitat and record what you've done. Use the knowledge and discoveries from your trip to the Aquarium of the Pacific to complete step five in your Girl Scout booklet.